

KEEPING
WARM

Pulse
mixes up
hot cocoa

PAGE 11



The Shakerite

PRODUCING
MAGIC

Arts looks
at the
making of
"Pippin"

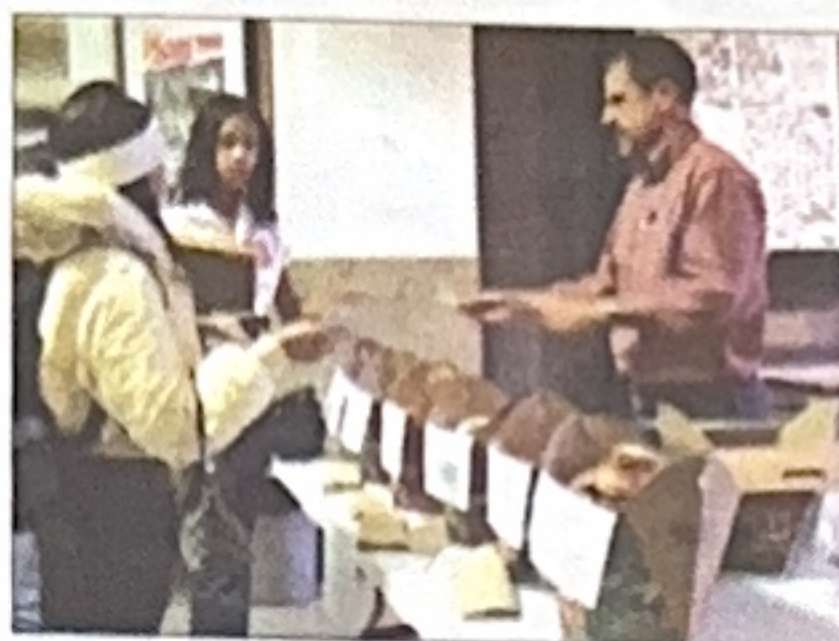
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December 1, 2004 • Volume 75 • Issue 3 • Shaker Heights High School • 15911 Aldersyde Drive • Shaker Heights, OH 44122

Bagels are back! Slawson's stash sells out

STUDENTS BUY BAGELS from tennis coach Allan Slawson before school starts. Bagel sales resumed Nov. 4 after they were nixed in April 2003.

Jaclyn Inglis
• THE SHAKERITE



By LAUREN WEISS
NEWS EDITOR

They're ba-ack.

Allan Slawson, a math teacher and tennis coach, resurrected morning bagel sales Nov. 4 by selling Panera bagels to raise money for the men's and women's tennis teams. Sales begin around 7:20 a.m. in the Eli Gallery. Bagels cost \$1. On the first day, customers bought all five dozen bagels in 15 minutes. Slawson has since increased his order to 13 dozen bagels a day, but they still sell out before 8 a.m.

"I'm getting close to the maximum," he said, adding that he would probably not buy more than 14 dozen bagels for one day.

Slawson originated bagel sales in 1996. He gave up the fundraiser in 2001, and George Harley, an English teacher and adviser of Future Educators of America, picked it up. In April 2003 Principal Michael Griffith closed down the operation because students determined to get their breakfasts increasingly arrived late for first period classes.

SEE BAGELS PAGE 3

Fasting feeds Muslims' faith

• Balancing Ramadan with school, sports

By ADAM WEINSTEIN
NEWS EDITOR

It's 4:30 a.m. and junior Jibi Gueye rushes to eat breakfast before sunrise. He won't eat or drink again until nightfall, so he eats four slices of bread, cereal, eggs and pancakes. In addition, he drinks three large glasses of water.

He will keep this up for one month.

Gueye observed the Muslim holy month of Ramadan until its conclusion Nov. 13.

Gueye still went to school and played soccer during the fast. He said it got a little hard because he couldn't drink any water during the day. But he said his soccer coaches, Douglas Myles and Geoffrey Gainford, supported his fast because it shows good character.

"During the regular season and post-season it was difficult to determine whether Jibi was fasting or not. He did a very good job at masking the fact and should be commended as well as respected for remaining disciplined to his faith," Gainford said.

Fasting can cause negative side effects such as dehydration and fatigue, especially if a student is participating in athletics while abstaining from food and water.

"On talking to Jibi about his fasting, I recommended that he be prepared, taking the necessary precautions during the day to remain hydrated, and as soon as the sun went down as quickly as possible to replace any electrolytes to prevent cramping and other injuries," Gainford said.

Although fasting can be both mentally and physically stressful, Muslims derive great spiritual reward from it.

"The fasting in the month of Ramadan is the third pillar of Islam, and a great act of worship prescribed by God to the believers in him to test their level of righteousness,"

SEE RAMADAN PAGE 3

“The important lesson is knowing how to control yourself and your desires.”

Makeda Farley
Junior

Getting a jump on the competition

• Rosenblatt's dedication, enthusiasm pay off in championship performances

By MEAGAN STEINER
SPORTS EDITOR

After six years of riding horses, Hannah Rosenblatt still bounces out of her parents' car and runs to her horse, Baisi, as if she were a brand new student.

"When I do learn something new, I'm always excited the next day at the barn to go and retry it because it's just fun," said Rosenblatt, a freshman who has been riding at Maypine Farms in Willoughby since age 8.

"She's a very naturally gifted rider," said Lauren Bass, Rosenblatt's trainer. "Some people are good at riding, but they don't really love it. She's very interested and wants to learn more. She has what you'd call a natural feel on a horse."

Last summer Rosenblatt, ranked fourteenth nationally in the Children's Hunters Division for riders ages 12 to 17, was the champion in this division at the Kentucky Spring National Horse Show. The Ohio Professional Horseman's Association ranked her fifth in the state last December and third the year before.

SEE ROSENBLATT PAGE 16



HANNAH ROSENBLATT AND Baisi go over a jump at the Kentucky Spring National Horse show last summer. The sophomore was champion of the Children's Hunters Division, which was open to 12-17-year-olds.

Courtesy of Hannah Rosenblatt

Junior Apprentices don't win, but contribute to good cause

By NTENI NLANDU
FOCUS EDITOR

Seven Shaker students found themselves in the boardroom Nov. 13, and although their team didn't win the task, no one was fired.



Murphy

Students from four Cleveland area schools participated in Junior Apprentice, a program inspired by NBC's hit reality show "The Apprentice," in which businessmen and women compete in various chal-

lenges in order to earn a job with real-estate tycoon Donald Trump's company.

The Junior Apprentice competition, created by the Greater Cleveland Young Women's Christian Association, occurred in anticipation of a visit from Carolyn Kepcher, who is executive vice president of The Trump Organization and appears as one of Trump's advisers on the show. The Junior Apprentice boardroom was at the Key Bank tower downtown.

Kepcher is scheduled to visit

SEE APPRENTICE PAGE 12



Jaclyn Inglis • THE SHAKERITE

TRAINER MICHELLE PALLOTTA ices Alena Petrenko's leg in the athletic trainers' office. Pallotta has been an athletic trainer for six months.

Female trainer battles stereotypes

By WESLEY LOWERY
STAFF REPORTER

Athletes seeking taped ankles and ice baths might have been surprised to find a female trainer wielding the Pro Wrap, but new athletic trainer Michelle Pallotta is confronting injuries and stereotypes.

Pallotta is a graduate of Kent State University and has been an athletic trainer for six months. She is employed through the Cleveland Clinic, and her job as

assistant to trainer Bob Collins is her first professional post. She grew up in Macedonia and attended Nordonia High School.

Pallotta said the hardest thing about the job is dealing with all of the stereotypes placed on her by coaches and players because she is a woman. After many years of being the head trainer, Collins feels that athletes do act differently around a female

SEE TRAINER PAGE 15

"I find the intent of this fund raising effort -- to limit instructional time -- to be misguided. Why not ask faculty about this idea first?"

"Hmmm . . . losing kids to SGORR and JCWA - it's kind of hard to justify more time lost to class. Also . . . where will coin wrappers come from? What about foreign coins? 'Odd' coins?"

"I was not given enough notice."

12.01.04

Who cares what you think?

FORUM

<< Shaker Speaks

Not

So

Thanksgiving

Your problems aren't special!

First of all, I don't take a timer to my whining, but it really depends on how my day is going. If I'm having a bad day, then, yeah, I'll complain. But not to everyone—only to the people I know will either put up with it or will tell me to shut up. I mostly complain about my parents or peers, rarely about school—other than the fact that it starts way too early and is beyond boring. Although I've never lost friends because I complain too much, I have definitely ditched friends because they complained too much. I know last year I ditched a couple of people because I wasn't in the mood for their "more righteous than thou/tortured soul" attitude toward everyone else. I mean, my entire family was on an emotional roller coaster this time last year because of my grandma's death. I wasn't in the mood to hear about my friend's conspiracy theory when her family ran out of pink sparkly Band-Aids! That is my #1 complaint. You're not the only person in the world with problems, so be quiet!

- Liza Bonthius

Put away the phones!

The thing I complain about most is the ignorance that goes on during the school day, whether it is in the classroom, the cafeteria, or the hall. Throughout the day I hear yelling, shouting, cell phones, fighting and loud noises coming from the classroom and halls. People continue to wear hats when told not to, and they use cell phones and i-Pods in class.

- Ryan Flynn

Keep the politics out of class

I think too many teachers express their political beliefs during classes. This interferes with some students' learning. I think they should not have anything in their rooms or discuss anything in a biased way, whether they are liberal or conservative. It's very offensive to those students who don't have the same political beliefs. I think it is very unprofessional and provides a poor atmosphere for learning and free inquiry.

- Henry Distad

I will always complain

During the whole year I complain about doing my homework, studying for tests and my grade in class. I spend about an hour complaining about homework, about a day complaining about my grade and I complain about studying that whole day. Sometimes I spend my lunch period complaining about these things. I have never lost my friends when I complain because half of that time they are complaining with me. The number one thing I complain about is going to work. I hate having to spend five hours at work. It gets boring when we have no people in the store. These are the things I complain about and always will.

- Joreon Coleman

Take tests from classwork

I think that I complain sparingly. I wouldn't call it whining unless it's about school. There is way too much work, or we get some work and the teacher does not do a good job of teaching it. I absolutely hate it when we get taught a lesson and there is something totally different on the test. If there were any major complaining at all, it would be about my parents, if they don't let me go somewhere or do something without giving an explanation. I can't stand that. I do my share of complaining, but I don't think I do it that much.

- Marcus Neal

Why Complain?

What I would complain about is the whole topic of complaining. I think it's a pointless topic. We could be talking about more important things that actually have an effect on the students rather than about what students don't like or what they have problems with.

- Corbin Pickett

The Shakerite

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Look at the bigger picture

My number one complaint is about the president. He has done nothing but destroy our economy. He gave tax cuts to the rich. His plan, No Child Left Behind, has left every child behind. Now Cleveland is the poorest city in the U.S. and we have lost thousands of dollars. Bush is doing nothing to help and isn't smart enough to make a plan to help. He also was stupid and rushed us into war to find weapons of mass destruction. But, I ask, where are these weapons? People don't see that he's stupid because they just think of him as a southern boy. Vice President Dick Cheney isn't my favorite, but he actually has a brain. The only reason Bush won is he got the vote of the Christians. Most Christians only focus on the gay marriage issue. Christians like me look at all the issues. And although Bush's view on marriage follows my religion, that's not the only issue to focus on.

- Crystal Wood

Whining works

Most people would say I don't complain as much as I whine. In school I probably complain maybe only in one class due to fact that I don't really understand everything in the class and because I have to just to get my point through sometimes. My mom says I whine too much, but being the only child you learn after a while your parents give you whatever you want when you whine. Parents have a sense when you're about to whine and to keep you from whining they just let you have what you want ahead of time. My biggest complaint is people in the hallways at school because when you're trying to get to class on time, there are people who stand in the middle of the hall talking to friends, which blocks the hall. Then there are those who want to walk all slowly just because they think they're special and the world revolves around them. I hate that because they are why I'm late to class sometimes and in the end I'm getting points off my grade due to others and they don't even care.

- Jasmin Anderson

Teachers: Are you planning to participate in "Stall the Teacher"?



Allie Jennings • THE SHAKERITE

Teachers: Let us breathe!

I really don't like school this year because all the teachers put so much work on you! Even though it is my junior year, I still think that the teachers should ease up and let us do our work comfortably and not rush us! There is a lot of stuff that juniors do, like planning for our future with visiting colleges, and planning on choosing a college, and adding more homework to our own personal workload isn't helping at all!

- Kevin Sutorius

More noodles, anyone?

The annual Youth Ending Hunger Spaghetti Dinner, held Nov. 2, raised more than \$1000 this year by adding a silent auction. Last year's dinner raised about \$550. The money benefits the Center for Domestic Violence, a Cleveland charity that runs shelters for battered women and conducts pro-



grams to raise awareness about domestic violence. Science teacher Bill Scanlon, YEH adviser, said the top auction item was a bicycle that sold for \$45. Junior Kate O'Gorman handled the financial aspects of the event.

"We were very successful this year," she said.

Ramadan offers students lessons on unity, self control

FROM RAMADAN PAGE 1

said Imam Ramez Islambouli, president of the board of directors of Uqba Mosque Foundation, the mosque Gueye attends. "A Muslim is expected to abstain from food, drink and sexual intercourse from dawn to sunset during Ramadan," said Islambouli, the mosque's leader of prayer. "He or she is also expected to guard their language, behavior, mood and attitude."

Junior Makeda Farley, who also observed Ramadan, ran cross-country while fasting.

"Fasting is not hard during school, but it gets a little hard during the practice," she said.

Islambouli recognizes the difficulties that Muslim high school students face during Ramadan.

"Whether you are a high school student, a factory worker, a physician or practicing any other profession, you will face similar difficulties, especially when you live in a non-Islamic environment," he said. "When it comes to a high school student, peer pressure and study load are the main difficulties. Unless you come from a very non-practicing family, most

Muslim teenagers do fast in the month of Ramadan."

Students use faith as a means to overcome the stress of not eating.

"I just think about God; it strengthens me mentally to keep the hunger away," Gueye said.

Islambouli believes fasting allows people to concentrate less on the superficial physical needs of their bodies and more on God.

Gueye said his whole family looks forward to Ramadan.

"The good thing I see about the month of Ramadan is that for most people it is an opportunity to practice self-control," Gueye said.

Gueye and his family break the fast together. They eat a traditional meal from his native country of Senegal, beginning with dates and then a main course of rice and lamb.

Farley emphasized that she enjoys the self-restraint of the observance.

"I look forward to Ramadan because it helps me to better myself. I

control my temper and feel more peaceful," she said.

Gueye, Farley and Islambouli all feel that during Ramadan people improve each other.

"Ramadan is a time when the Muslim community comes together," Islambouli said. "They feel the hunger and the thirst of those who are deprived by experiencing it themselves. They tend to share more with each other."

Farley feels that during Ramadan the Muslim students at Shaker come together. She said that she bought a fellow Muslim student, junior Tasnim Fatima, a gift for Eid Al-Fitr, the feast that ends Ramadan.

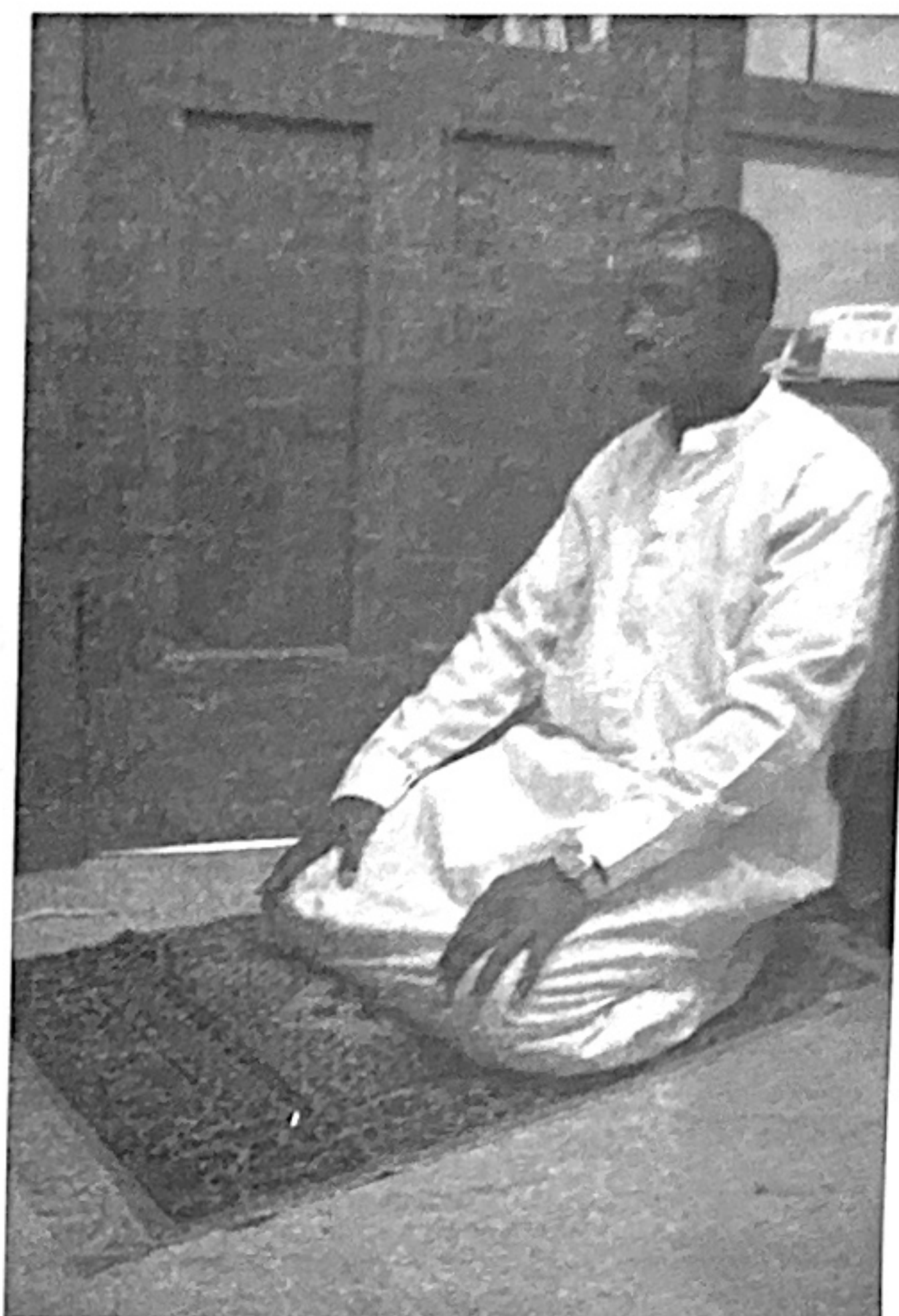
"The important lesson is knowing how to control yourself and your desires," she said.

For Islambouli, Ramadan is a time to concentrate on the means of things rather than the ends.

"In Ramadan you become less concerned about your food, your drink or that beautiful girl sitting behind you, and you try to put your focus on being more observant to the creator of the food, drink and beauty: God," Islambouli said.



Farley



Dan Snider • THE SHAKERITE

JUNIOR JIBI GUEYE, who is wearing a traditional Muslim robe, performs an abridged Muslim prayer on a typical Islamic prayer rug to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan, which lasts from Oct. 15 to Nov. 11. In addition to increasing his level of prayer, Gueye also fasts during the daylight hours. "I just think about God; it strengthens me mentally," Gueye said.

Halloween hangs on

• Announcement requesting restraint in costumes fails to inspire student compliance

By LIZ KANTOR
ARTS EDITOR

Despite Principal Michael Griffith's request that costumes stay in the closet this year, Powerpuff Girls, 10 little Indians and French maids filled the hallways Oct. 29.

Griffith's Oct. 27 P.A. announcement discouraged students from celebrating Halloween in school and reiterated his expectation that Oct. 29 proceed as a normal academic day.

Griffith discouraged students from dressing up because he said many students "take it further than necessary" on Halloween.

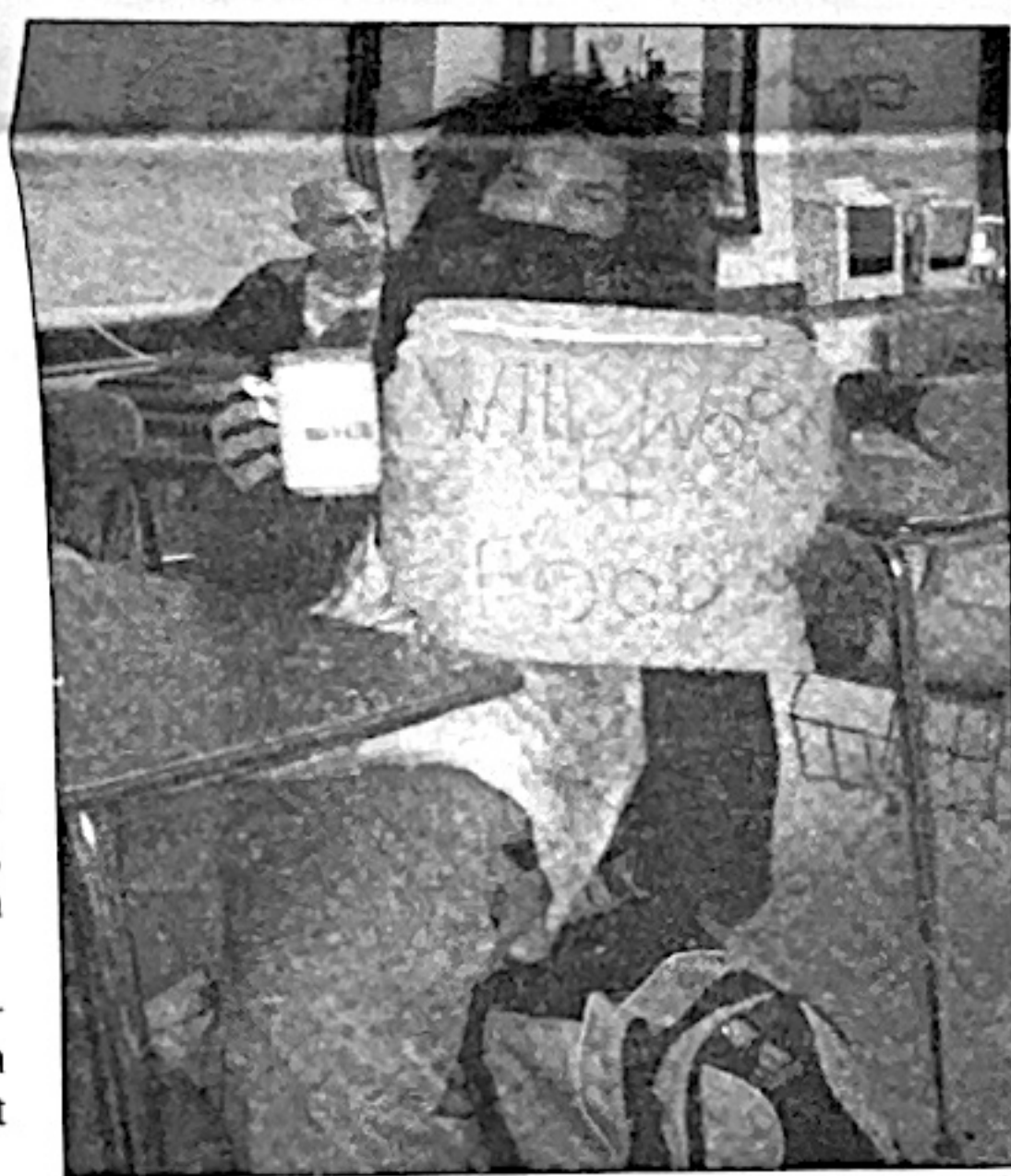
"The message I intended [got through to students]," Griffith said.

However, some students dressed up because of his message.

"[I dressed up] partly because we were told we weren't allowed to," said sophomore Lizzy Quigley, who dressed up as a little kid.

"People love to do things they aren't allowed to. It was just plain stupid that we were allowed to have days like '80s day but no dressing up for Halloween," she added.

Although



Dan Snider • THE SHAKERITE

SOPHOMORE TYLER NAUGLE displays a cardboard sign as part of his homeless man Halloween costume. He "didn't like" Principal Michael Griffith's request that students not dress up.

students saw very little difference between spirit days and Halloween, Griffith did.

"[Spirit days] are more focused. Student Council structures them," Griffith said. "With Halloween, anything goes."

Griffith said he did not want to prohibit students from dressing up because there is no way to discipline all students for doing so.

Griffith's goal was to find a balance between fun on Halloween and a normal school day.

History teacher Dann Parker incorporated some Halloween spirit into his curriculum.

His students designed masks representing different historical characters for Halloween. The back of each mask had to list three to five historical facts as well as a quote either by or about that person. Students presented their masks in class Oct. 29 and received extra credit for them.

Parker believed the masks, which are now displayed around his classroom, would help students prepare for the final and the Modern European History Advanced Placement Exam in May.

"Halloween automatically creates an atmosphere where it's hard to get work done," Parker said.

Bagels return after 19-month absence

• Cafeteria closes unprofitable breakfast operation

FROM BAGELS PAGE 1

complaining of long lines to buy bagels. Slawson said another reason was that the cafeteria, which began selling breakfast in 2003, did not appreciate the competition.

Griffith approved bringing the bagels back this October. Slawson said he has heard no complaints this time because he stops sales at 8 a.m. and has eliminated spreads and drinks, allowing lines to move more quickly.

"[The student] hands me a dollar, grabs a bagel and leaves," he said.

Junior Donald Laster buys a cinnamon crunch bagel about twice a week. He remembers people being upset when bagel sales were stopped last time.

"People were asking, 'What happened to the bagels?'" he said. "It was real bad."

A Shakerite poll from April 2003 reported that 52 percent of the student body was upset about the loss of the bagels and that 72 percent of students had bought a bagel at least once. Slawson, in another indication of the bagels' popularity, said that one day he sold 31 dozen bagels.

Laster said he "sometimes" bought breakfast in the cafeteria when bagels were not available. The cafeteria stopped selling breakfast re-

cently.

Cindy Gorfido, the district's food service supervisor, said the cafeteria was not making a profit from breakfast sales, which included bagels, muffins, juice, breakfast burritos and fruit. She also cited the fact that the high school cafeteria now prepares lunches for some of the elementary schools, creating a space issue in the mornings.

"We would start up again if kids asked for it," she said.

Slawson orders a variety of bagels according to student demand. For example, on Nov. 11, he offered seven dozen cinnamon crunch, three dozen asiago cheese and one and half dozen each of plain and blueberry bagels.

Slawson added that other groups, such as the Spanish Culture Club, will soon begin administering sales on certain days. The Future Educators of America declined to sell bagels again this year.

If a club sells 13 dozen bagels, it makes \$68.52 in profits. Panera sells 13 dozen bagels for \$87.48.

"It fills an important need," Slawson said. "Students perform better if they have something to eat."

Shaker Heights

Teachers' Association

SHTA

Professionals
Educating

Dedicated To
Shaker's Youth

Staying on task isn't as easy as it seems

Do you know someone who has been diagnosed with:

Attention Deficit Disorder
63%

Attention Deficit & Hyperactivity Disorder
41%

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
20%

Scientific poll of 146 students with a margin of error +/- 8 percent. Shakerite staff interviewed students.
Allie Jennings
• THE SHAKERITE

• Common learning disabilities interfere with students' abilities to perform even simple jobs

By Lauren Weiss
NEWS EDITOR

When senior Becky Siegel was in third grade, her parents and teacher realized that she was having a harder time reading than her classmates were. She was then diagnosed with a learning disability in reading comprehension. Siegel said she learned how to cope with the disorder over the next nine years.

"Now I know I have [the learning disability] and I know what I have to do to get my work done," she said.

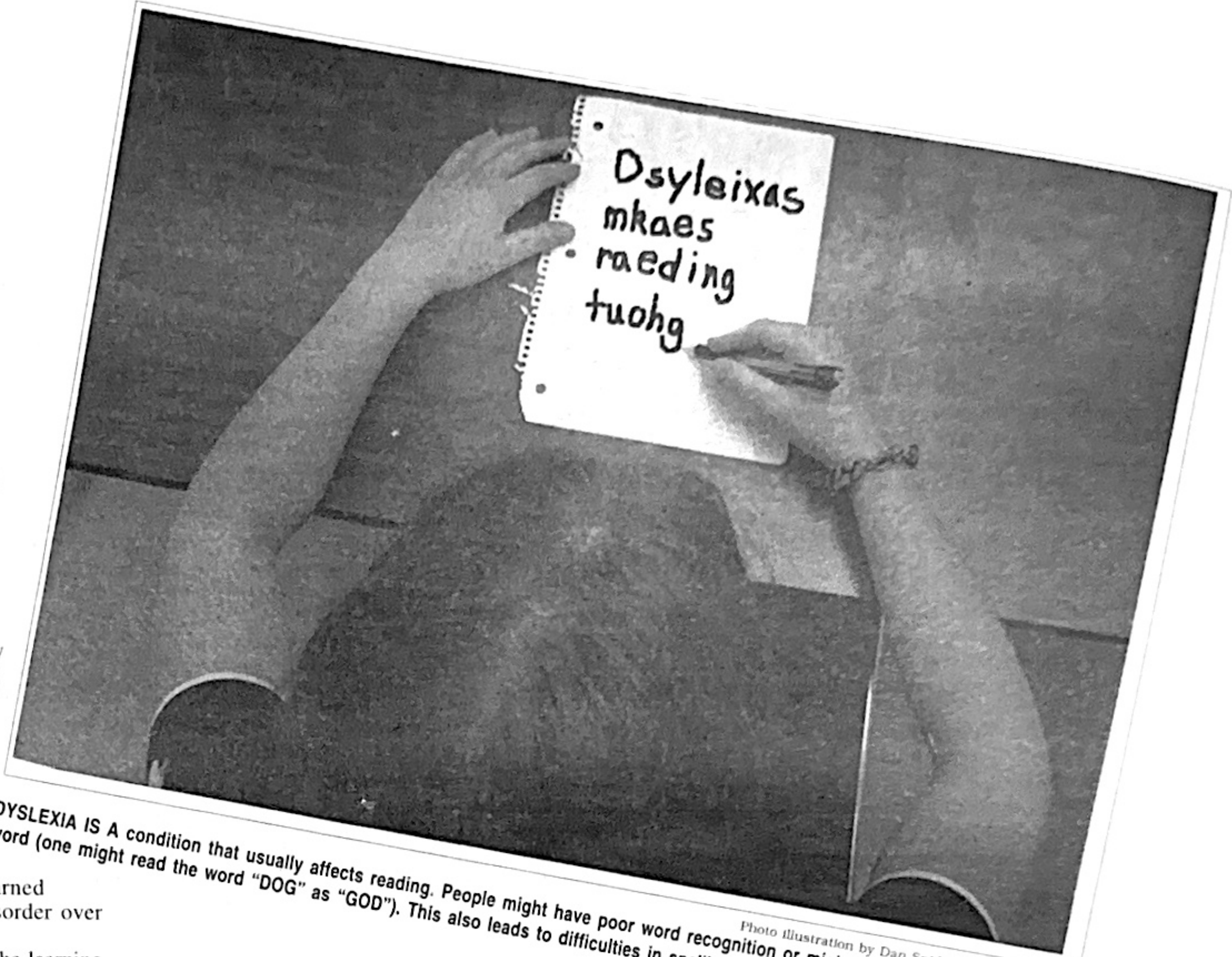
Siegel has certain strategies to help her deal with her workload.

"I'll listen to books on tape while I read the books for school, I take heavy notes, and I do a lot of my work on the weekends, so I can keep my stress level down during the week," she said.

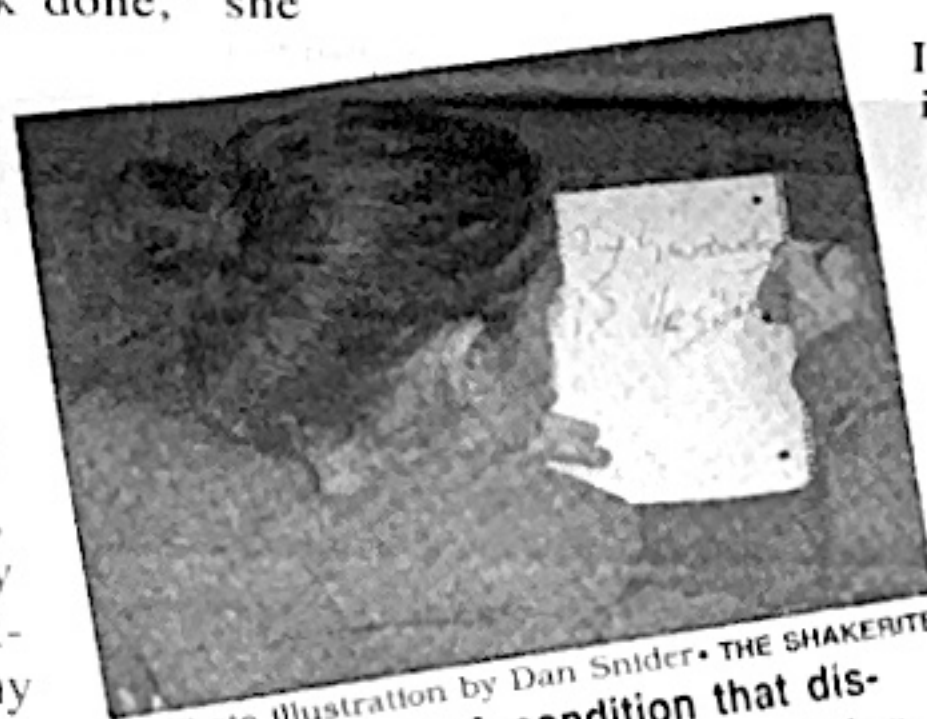
Siegel also has an Individualized Education Plan to help her with her studies. An IEP is a federally mandated legal contract between the school and the guardians. It includes a list of services that the school will provide and what strategies will be used in order to help the student achieve stated goals.

In addition, an IEP contains the school's assessment of the student's disability. The contracts are created at a meeting between a guidance counselor, teachers and the student's guardians. Siegel's IEP includes getting extra time and being able to use calculators and computers on tests. She also works with a tutor.

Siegel is one of approximately 300 students at the high school who have



DYSLEXIA IS A condition that usually affects reading. People might have poor word recognition or might reverse letters in a word (one might read the word "DOG" as "GOD"). This also leads to difficulties in spelling.
Photo illustration by Dan Snider • THE SHAKERITE



DYSGRAPHIA IS A condition that disables one's fine motor skills to varying degrees and usually causes abnormally poor and often illegible handwriting.
Photo illustration by Dan Snider • THE SHAKERITE

IEPs. According to Dr. Lynne Shields, chairwoman of the special education department, about 150 students have learning disabilities, 100 of whom are enrolled in traditional

classes. "Students who are in intervention classes... need more intensive help to meet their IEP goals," she said.

Shields added, "We look at where skill deficits are."

A learning disability is a neurological disorder that makes it more difficult for someone to master academic skills. In other words, a person with a learning disability might have a high IQ but be unable to perform well in school. There are many types of learning disabilities, including dyslexia, which interferes with language skills, dyscalculia, which interferes with math skills and dysgraphia, which interferes with fine motor skills.

People commonly refer to Attention Deficit Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder as learning disabilities, but because they can be treated through drugs and therapy, ADD and ADHD are

not formally considered learning disabilities.

Dr. Laura Rocker, a child psychiatrist, said that ADD and ADHD cause people to act impulsively and become easily distracted.

These traits often become apparent in the third or fourth grade, when students begin to do long-term projects. Symptoms can also become evident during seventh grade, when students begin to move between classrooms during the school day. However, most children present symptoms before age 7.

"Treating with medication is critical. A recent study showed that medicine alone or medicine and therapy, as opposed to just therapy, are the most effective ways to treat ADD and ADHD," Rocker said.

"You look at how much the person is struggling. If they're not struggling, they don't need to be treated," she added.

Rocker added that most people diagnosed with an attention disorder are treated with medication.

Junior Michael Copeland was diagnosed with ADD in sixth grade. Before moving to Shaker in ninth grade, he attended Lawrence School, which specializes in treating students who need more

individual attention. "I didn't understand stuff. I didn't learn as fast," he said. "My freshman year I was in intervention classes, but I worked hard and got out of them."

Marcia Jaffe, intervention specialist at the high school, works with about 30 students who have learning

Learning Disabilities

Q What are learning disabilities?

A Medical: Dr. Laura Rocker, a child psychiatrist, defines them as disparities between where a student should be performing according to intelligence tests and where he or she is performing. She added that learning disabilities cannot be treated with medicines, which disqualifies ADD and ADHD. Those diseases can be treated with drugs such as Ritalin.

Educator: Dr. Lynne Shields, chairwoman of the high school's special education department, uses a less concrete definition. "If it impacts the student's learning, I would consider it to be a disability," she said.

Compiled by Lauren Weiss

disabilities, ADD or ADHD to help them succeed in their classes.

She gives each student individualized "recipes" based on what triggers them to be unable to focus.

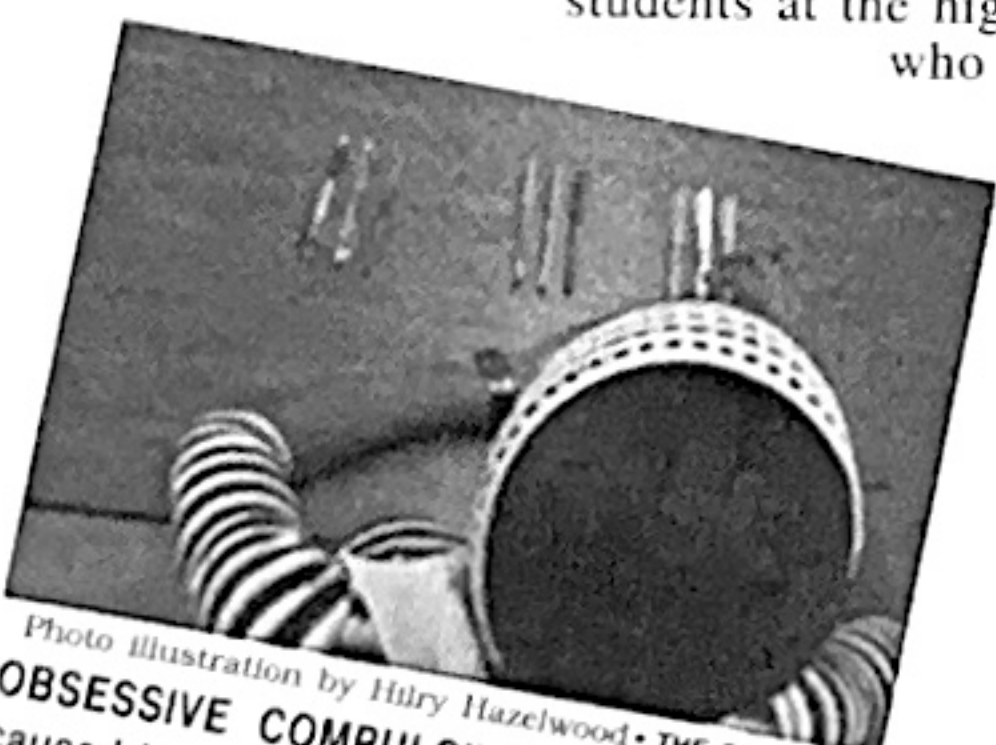
"For example, I had one student who had to constantly move from place to place. So I told him to set up one subject, say chemistry, on his desk, another on his bed and another on the kitchen table," she explained.

Jaffe's other strategies include helping students with paper and time management. She has students create a "Do and Done" folder, which holds all the work that the student needs to do that night on one side and all the work the student has done on the other. Jaffe also works with students to set up a time for them to start working on the assignments.

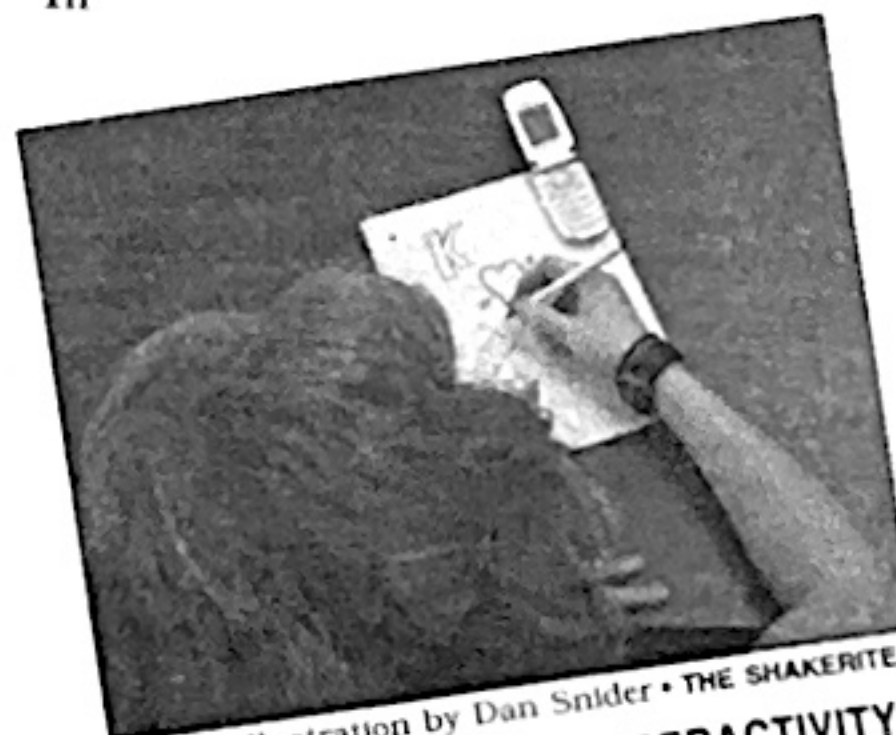
"I know what it's like not to focus. I know what it's like to procrastinate," Jaffe said, citing her own problems with organization. "It's not one-size-fits-all."

Copeland feels that he has to work harder than other students to get his schoolwork done.

"It's stressful because I have to think harder and everything takes longer," he said.



OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER is caused by a lack of serotonin in the brain. Symptoms include excessive organization, excessive worrying and self-doubting and excessive checking tendencies.
Photo illustration by Hilary Hazelwood • THE SHAKERITE



ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY Disorder, which is related to the Attention Deficit Disorder, is a common condition that generally causes easy distractibility and an inability to focus.
Photo illustration by Dan Snider • THE SHAKERITE

Baring it all

Last summer Channel 19 news anchor Sharon Reed participated in photographer Spencer Tunick's Body of Art photo shoot in Cleveland, which featured 2,700 naked men and women. She turned her artistic endeavor into a November sweeps story. After the piece was shown on



WOIO on the 11 p.m. news, the story of the naked reporter was taken up across the country and controversy ensued. "I've had it up to here with the journalism elite who tell me and everybody else there is only one way to do a story and it's their way," Reed told FOX News, referring to the story that showed her removing her undergarments in addition to unblurred shots of the naked crowd.

the Rite Artist



Steve Katz • THE SHAKERITE

NCLB failing, one child at a time

If Shaker continues to score under the standards set by the state, we run the risk of being labeled as 'needing improvement.'

the Rite Idea

Don't be surprised if you come back from college to find a bandless, football-less, Academic Decathlon-less building. Why? "All students and student subgroups including African American, economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities and limited English proficient will meet the identified Adequate Yearly Process indicators as determined by the [No Child Left Behind] legislation." According to the federal government, all students, regardless of their socio-economic background, race or academic ability, must improve their performance before Shaker can meet AYP. In other words, students in Advanced Placement Chemistry and special education students are required to get the same score on the new Ohio Graduation Test. If Shaker continues to score under the standards set by the state, we run the

risk of being labeled as "needing improvement." If a school appears on that list for several consecutive years, the government reserves the right to take "serious corrective action." And we all know that "failure cannot hide." The school district is now asserting the need to align curriculum with the NCLB standards. This is the first time in Shaker's history that the state is governing curriculum and teachers are being overtly instructed to "teach to the test." In the long run, schools that don't improve may be privatized, meaning a company takes control. As companies' main concern is making money, extracurriculars and elective classes will take a back seat to stockholders' approval. Unfortunately, the content of the tests is as confusing as the

law itself. Students are expected to know literary terms such as "glittering generalization," which even the government can't explain to our satisfaction.

If the state can't explain it in a way that makes any sense, how are they going to test us on it? (If you can explain the definition of "glittering generalization," we applaud you.)

In theory, NCLB is a good idea in that communities should be more concerned about education. However, the methods the act employs are retroactive and take away time from learning. The schools that require the most help won't receive the support they need because their students will continue to fall short of the standards. The school district's view that extracurriculars and electives are important assets to student learning is being threatened as we try to conform to government requirements.

So, don't come back here expecting to coach football.

No Child LEFT BEHIND?

Driving parents over the curb

Getting your driver's permit. Possibly one of the most exciting days ever – for you. For your parents however, it's the beginning of the end. I want to preface this by saying that it must be terrible to be a parent when your kid gets his driver's license. However, to parents I offer this advice: We do notice your veiled attempts to vicariously slow us down. Hint: there's no brake on that side! Slamming your foot down on the floor does nothing but distract us.



EMILY GRANINS
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Once the first month passes, we, the new drivers, have a feel for the gas, the brake... the radio, and we start to feel more confident. The road isn't full of squirrels trying to kill you or crazy speed demons (usually). Granted, we still have a lot to learn, but that's where you, the parents, come in. You're there to gently remind us of all the little things we have to remember – like the curb. Always good to know that it's still there on the side of the road, and it's especially nice when you stand up straight in your seat and point down to it. That helps, thanks.

Four months later everyone is ready for the "temps" stage to be over. We drivers are excited about the freedoms that come with driving; you parents are ready to get behind the wheel again. As my dad put it when I finally got my license, he "hadn't been allowed to drive for six months!" But there's still one more hard month to go. As road-wise high-schoolers, we all know we can drive, even if you don't yet. The "I think you're a very good driver," line is particularly believable when you say it while gripping the door handle with white knuckles.

Having both parents in the car is even harder. From the back seat comes a sharp gasp, followed by a defensive "She's not doing anything!" from the front. It's kind of hard to focus on the road when our "instructors" are arguing about how we're doing.

Aside from the actual mechanics of driving, those six months also help us learn our way around the city. Maybe. Or we learn your five different ways around it. When my parents were both in the car with me, my dad would take the front. I would pull up to a stop sign, and he would say, "Take a left." From the back we'd hear "I wouldn't have her do that." This would continue until my dad would say "Do YOU want to sit in front?" To which my mom's quick response was always "no." The people behind me probably thought I was nuts flipping the turn signal so much.

Finally, the six months from hell are over and we get our licenses. Here's my theory: the driving tester passed us, so obviously we're good enough to be on the road. Apparently, I'm completely wrong. I've now had my license for six months and therefore been driving a year. I'm the first to say that I'm not a perfect driver. But I'll also say that my driving gets uglier when my heart is pounding – a perfectly natural reaction to hearing "WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THERE'S A CAR RIGHT THERE!!!" coming from one seat over. Especially if the car is at the other end of the street.

Again, parents, it's not that I blame you. It's got to be hard to have your kid behind the wheel. You want us all to become these amazing, safe, responsible drivers. We all get that, and we try, we really do. But startling the person controlling the car is never the best approach if you want a smooth ride.

Reality Chart

Dumb Laws and the states that made them

The state	The law	The reason
Alabama	It is illegal to wear a fake moustache that causes laughter in church.	This was in response to the massacre that caused four people to choke on their communion wafers.
California	No vehicle without a driver may exceed 60 miles per hour.	Common sense, yes... CA decided to write down those unwritten rules.
Georgia	Donkeys may not be kept in bathtubs.	When you think about it, this makes sense, it's a waste of water because asses are never clean for long.
Kansas	If two trains meet on the same track, neither shall proceed until the other has passed.	Some states still care about common courtesy.
Louisiana	Biting someone with your natural teeth is "simple assault," while biting someone with your false teeth is "aggravated assault."	Another law to put down our senior citizens.
Mississippi	It is illegal for a male to be sexually aroused in public.	This law was passed after a law that prohibited poking people was not clearly specified.
Ohio	It is illegal to fish for whales on Sunday.	In the prehistoric times when Ohio actually had an ocean, this law was very practical.
Utah	It is illegal to detonate any nuclear weapon. You can have them, but you just can't detonate them.	Utah didn't want to take away the right to have them from those who just like to admire their beauty.
W. Virginia	It is legal for a male to have sex with an animal as long as it does not exceed 40 lbs	While the cows had no objections, the cats felt that they were being neglected.
Texas	A recently passed anticrime law requires criminals to give their victims 24 hours notice, either orally or in writing, and to explain the nature of the crime to be committed.	If we lived in a world that actually abided this law... we wouldn't have criminals to begin with. <small>Compiled from DumbLaws.com</small>

Sudanese genocide deserves our attention

Genocide: the systematic killing or extermination of a whole people or nation.

Only 65 years ago, a mass genocide killed 11 million people in Europe, wiping out an entire generation. During this grave hour in history,



CHRIS INNIS
STAFF REPORTER

many wrongs were committed. None, however, was as egregious as the wrong committed by those who stood silent. The millions of people who stood mum in the face of tyranny said, in their silence, they condoned the grave actions that took place. It is true that silence has profound power, and the 11 million dead are a testament to this.

I recently took a trip with the Anti-Defamation League to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. I gleaned from that trip a single message imprinted in my mind: *never again*. Today, another genocide is occurring.

This time, the atrocities are being committed in the West African country of Sudan, in its southwestern region known as Darfur. In this region, nomadic Arabs combined with the Sudanese army known as the "Janjaweed" are raping, killing and driving out millions of indigenous, black, non-Arab subsistence farmers. The United Nations coalition reports that in addition to the 70,000 people who have been killed in this conflict, an additional 1.8 million people have been forced to flee their homes.

Conflict in the Sudan region is not a new concept. For centuries, there have been tribal wars, and the recent conflict in Sudan is, to some extent, a result of centuries of turmoil. Drought has plagued Sudan since the mid 1980s and has mostly affected northern region of the Sudan, where Arab nomadic farmers have been forced to migrate to the southern more fertile Darfur region, and thus began to compete with the native Fur for land.

During the 1980s and 90s, the Sudanese government took measures to ensure the Arab nomads land at the expense of the native Fur people and enraged the indigenous population. The Fur people, in response, formed several coalitions called the Darfur Liberation Front, Sudan Liberation Movement, Sudan Liberation Army, and the Justice and Equality Movement. In 2003, these groups took up arms for their cause, and the Sudanese government responded by sending its own small army and enlisting the Arab "Janjaweed" to help quell the rebellion.

The Arabs, however, have taken a step further and found the conflict a perfect opportunity to purge the nation of "blacks".

The magnitude of this crisis is tremendous. Both congress and the U.N. have declared the situation in the Sudan genocide, and the situation does not seem to be improving. This conflict is one of the worst humanitarian crises in our world today, and I beg you not to sit and watch in silence.

In the near future, there will be a week designated to informing students about the conflict in the Sudan. You can make a difference.

Your voice could save the lives of thousands.

NOT SO DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES

LAURA HABAT
OPINION EDITOR

As a female in today's society, I'm told I can be anything I want to be: a lawyer, a doctor, an astronaut... the list goes on and on. With all these options available, it seems as though every career path merits a mention except one: homemaker. If, as you're reading this, you shrink away from the word as if it were dirty, then you more than anyone else need to keep reading.

At one time women were only encouraged to raise a family and take care of the home, and now it seems we have drifted toward the other extreme. A friend and I were discussing our plans for the future, and when he asked about my aspirations, I told him that I'd like to raise a family.

"You want to be a... a housewife?" his face twisted in disapproval as he uttered the word.

This wasn't the first time I witnessed that response. I was, however, surprised to hear it coming from a male. Usually when I say that I'd rather raise children than be a lawyer, it's the women who take offense.

"Women are worth more than just cooking and cleaning," I've been told by members of my gender. And that's very true—I believe women should pursue careers if they wish. However, it has become evident to me that women are often encouraged not to be housewives. Instead, they are expected to hold down a career and raise a healthy family, or not to have children at all.

A mother should not have to work outside the home if she doesn't want to. Raising a family is a full-time job. My male friend, who was shocked to hear of my future plans, further displayed his ignorance by saying, "That's so lazy of you." Lazy? Ask any mother if she thinks her job is easy and she'll laugh.

I strongly believe that, economics permitting, one parent should stay home full time, at least until the children have

started elementary school.

Having children changes everything. Once you become a parent, the world no longer revolves around you. Your children become your priority. It may seem as if that statement is a given, but many people don't live by these words. My mother stayed home full-time until I was in fourth grade, and I will forever be thankful for that.

Not long ago, many people felt threatened by the idea of a female doing "man's work." And now it seems as though many women feel threatened by a woman who is content to stay home. Their response is to denounce the housewife and call her an "anti-feminist." Why does it bother them? It's because they are not secure enough with their own position in society, and so they put down the homemaker to assure themselves that they are correct for choosing a career over a family. Women should feel comfortable enough with themselves to lead the kind of life they want without having to question others' choices.

Feminism has been twisted to fit the ideal that women should be more like men, when in reality a true feminist embraces her femininity, not shun it. Being a homemaker doesn't make you weak. It takes a lot of strength to raise children, and it's a task that some people could never handle.

You don't have to be a statistics major to identify the root of this reality: money. It's a well-known fact that the higher a job pays, the more respect you receive. A professional baseball player makes millions every year for doing very little that positively contributes to our society. And how much do childcare workers make? It's too pitiful to say.

What's wrong with this picture? The people who are taking care of our children while we go to work are invaluable, and yet due to their economic status they are given little regard.

Consider a full time mother: she is working nonstop to raise America's future and she gets paid absolutely nothing. This is all the more reason to treat mothers with respect. After all, they are performing a precious service.



Time to bring back the love, Shaker

Aretha Franklin's well-known phrase, "r-e-s-p-e-c-t, find out what it means to me," lacks meaning here in Shaker. It is commonplace for students to brush off monotonous comments made by teachers in this building regarding



KATE WILLIAMS

how things were different back in "their day." I myself tend to decline into a state of utter annoyance when teachers talk of how our generation is merely a conglomeration of disrespect, materialism and selfishness. I suppose some of these generalizations about the youth of America are true, but the one that I am personally embarrassed by is the lack of respect that kids our age have for our elders and our peers.

When a quick conversation with a friend in between classes morphs into an outraged confrontation that requires interference from a security guard, something is wrong. This is their *job*. They are being paid not only to break up the numerous fights that are unfortunately becoming a form of after school amusement, but they also have the responsibility to encourage kids to get to class on time. Any student in this high school knows how annoying this may

be at times, however, regardless of our hallway exasperations, it is our job to move on and go to class. Do not gravitate toward disrespectful comments that for some twisted reason make you smile inside because you "told them!" If there truly is that big of a problem, it needs to be addressed with higher authority.

Having respect for authority goes hand in hand with having respect for your peers. Let me repeat that: your peers.

I cannot understand why for some inexcusable reason, student's faces light up when the word "fight" echoes across the cafeteria and becomes the lunchtime entertainment. Let me remind you that Shaker is no type of surreal movie scene. These are real people getting punched in the jaw, kicked in the stomach or what have you, and this brings people pleasure?

That is sick.

To members of the Shaker student body, hear this: violence among your peers is immature, degrading, and quite frankly, shameful. And to those of you who wonder why dances end early, pep rallies no longer exist and the hallways are not free to roam: there is part of your answer.

the Guest 'Rite

Top the Greeting cards you won't find on the rack

- 10 Thinking of you as you downsize your home.
- 9 I'm sorry your wife left you for the gardener.
- 8 Mazel Tov! You got your period!
- 7 Happy Birthday! You're one year closer to eternal damnation!
- 6 Even though daddy remarried, I still love you.

- 5 Best wishes to you in your bankruptcy.
- 4 Thanks for helping me make bail!
- 3 We regret to hear your wife is infertile.
- 2 Thank you for attending my husband's execution
- 1 Our hearts are with you while your trial is pending.





FOCUS

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LIAR LIAR

PANTS ON FIRE

Anne Morrison • THE SHAKERITE

• What lies beneath the smiles and nods

By NTENI NLANDU
FOCUS EDITOR

If you want to know if you are in the presence of a fibber, you don't need a \$6,000 polygraph machine or two months of training costing around \$4,350. You only need to know which way your suspect is looking.

"People have tendencies to avert their eyes to the right if they're using a more creative way to lie," said social studies teacher Kimberly Owens. "The right side contains more creative storage."

Students often find themselves in challenging situations, faced with the decision of either telling the truth or stretching it. Most call a dishonest statement a lie, but others see it in a different light.

"Students are young people, students are humans... and at times, students stretch the truth or tell different versions of the truth to rescue themselves," Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson said.

Teachers and students agree that lies are used to improve one's image. "People lie to make their lives easier," social studies teacher Andrea Glickman said. For

example, politicians spin a web of promises in order to gain an office.

Most people believe they don't need a lie detector test to tell when a politician is spinning falsehoods. As the old joke goes, you can tell a politician is lying when he's speaking.

"Every time they get into office, they break promises," junior Tiffany Powell said.

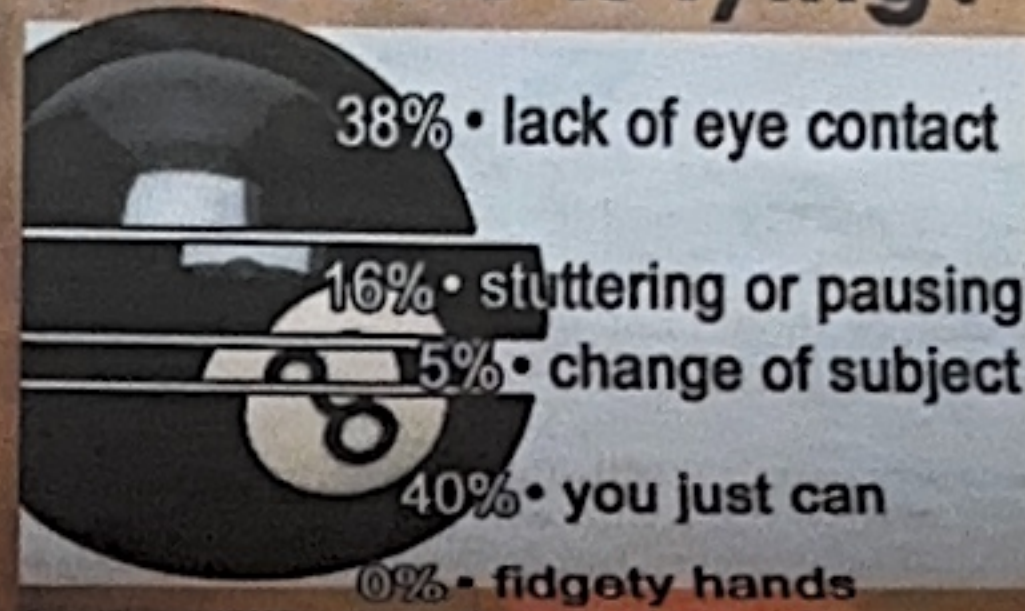
Male guests on the Maury show take lie detector tests to determine if they are cheating on their pregnant girlfriends. However, senior Phil Thomas doesn't think the tests are necessary.

"Most people can tell if someone is lying, so they don't need a machine," Thomas said.

Joseph T. Wells is founder and chairman of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners in Austin, Texas, and specializes in behaviors people use when lying. In his article "A Fish Story or Not," Wells stated that people avoid eye contact

or showing emotion when lying. Wells suggests paying attention to any sudden expressions of

How can you tell if someone is lying?



emotion that only last a second and are quickly replaced by another expression. The quick changes indicate lies.

Experienced liars have the same traits, said Owens, who has done some studies on body language.

Wells also pointed out that crossing one's arms is a protective instinct that prevents fidgeting and the appearance of untruthfulness. Although the body's first instinct is to protect itself from the consequences of telling the truth, at the same time a subconscious movement might escape. Sometimes the head will nod yes while the individual answers no.

Wells advises that asking a detailed question will challenge liars.

They might pause while coming up with an answer that doesn't incriminate them. Unable to answer, they might repeat the question or use selective memory.

There are some people who can tell a lie without showing any of these characteristics. They are able to say falsehoods and actually believe them.

After repeating false information, the person at fault might completely convince himself or herself that what he or she is saying is the truth. This makes it easier to tell a lie without showing any signs of dishonesty.

"Some experienced liars no longer think they're lying because they've convinced themselves they're not lying," Owens said.

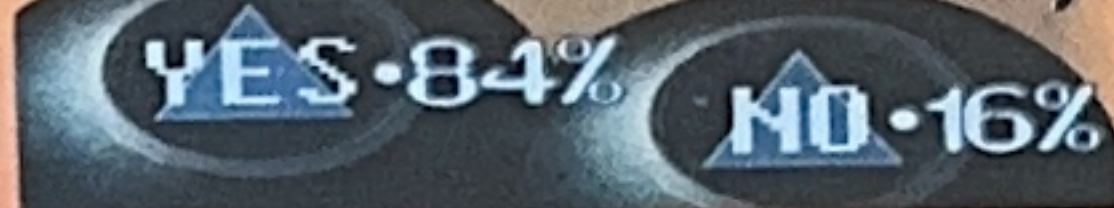
Not all lies are hurtful. They help people when they are in trouble or to make them feel good about themselves. Sometimes the truth isn't freeing.

"Lying isn't always a bad thing, but I do think that it is a weakness," sophomore Brian Allen said.

"Lying isn't always a bad thing, but I do think that it is a weakness."

Brian Allen
sophomore

(Can you tell if someone is lying?)



Allie Jennings • THE SHAKERITE

Famous lies in media history



Two cousins, Frances Griffiths and Elsie Wright, took two photographs in 1917 to prove they had been playing with fairies in their garden. It wasn't until 1978 that a researcher noticed that the fairies looked odd. In 1981, the two cousins finally confessed that the fairies were paper cutouts.

In "Liar Liar," Jim Carrey is a lawyer who becomes unable to tell lies after his son makes a birthday wish. Carrey realizes critical truths about his life. Carrey provides just enough humor to compliment this great comedy.



On April 13, 1981, Janet Cooke, a reporter for the Washington Post, won a Pulitzer Prize for a heart-breaking story about an 8-year-old heroine addict. Two days later, she confessed that the story was fabricated, returned the prize and resigned.



Al Franken has been studying Republican methods. He examined the policies of the Bush administration and questioned them. Franken boldly states that certain current and past politicians are liars. Franken takes on what he calls myths by gathering information for his book, "Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right."



Compiled by
Amanda Orr

Lying liars who live next door		
Person	What they said	What it means
Parents	"Then take a left. You can't miss it."	You just passed it. I have no clue; this is Green Street
	"Now, I'm going to tell you the truth."	Now I am going to butter you up.
Boyfriends/Girlfriends	"... but we can still be good friends."	Forget my number.
	"She means nothing to me."	She is my new girlfriend.
Salesmen	"I love your new hat/haircut/dress/suit."	If I stand next to you I look so great.
	"Limited time offer."	I'll be back with the same offer in a month.
TV Spokesmen	"Not available directly in the United States."	It's on sale at the Dollar Tree.
	"mmm... Good."	This tastes like crap.
Politicians	"You'll use this everyday."	You'll give this away.
	"Lifetime guarantee."	This is made of plastic.
	"I'm from your government, and I am here to help you."	I'm from your government and I need money and oil.
	"I did not have sexual relations with that woman."	Am I sounding sincere enough?

WHEN SKIN BECOMES THE CANVAS

Upper Back

Popular Designs: star, heart, dragon, eagle, wings
Celebrity: Jane Jackson, Sha LaSha, Michelle Cagle

6% of students have had a tattoo on their upper back

Shoulder

Popular Designs: star, anchor, heart, wings
Celebrity: Ashley Tisdale, Jay McInnis, Dennis Rodman

7% of students have had a tattoo on their shoulder

Lower Back

Popular Designs: V-sign, heart, anchor, star, wings
Celebrity: Sarah Michelle Gellar, Emily Stachel, Billy Bob Thornton

53% of students have had a tattoo on their lower back

Arm

Fact 6
License!
SG1371U

Popular Designs: snake, heart, anchor, star, wings
Celebrity: David Jackson, Angelina Jolie, Pippa

17% of students have had a tattoo on their arm



A SAFE ALTERNATIVE

Scared to get a tattoo, or just want something less permanent? An alternative exists: henna. Henna is a paste used to decorate the skin without harming it. According to The "Encyclopedia of Oriental," henna is made from plants that are crushed, added to water, and made into a paste. Then the mixture is applied to the skin in spiraling patterns. If you leave the henna on for about two hours, and then wash it off, a brownish-orange pattern will remain for about two to three weeks. Henna is a safe and cool alternative to permanent body art.

3% of students have had a tattoo on their upper back

yes • 43%

no • 57%

10% of students have had a tattoo on their shoulder

yes • 21%

no • 79%

15% of students have had a tattoo on their lower back

yes • 13%

no • 87%

20% of students have had a tattoo on their arm

yes • 16%

no • 84%

25% of students have had a tattoo on their hand

yes • 18%

no • 82%

30% of students have had a tattoo on their face

yes • 12%

no • 88%

35% of students have had a tattoo on their neck

yes • 10%

no • 90%

40% of students have had a tattoo on their chest

yes • 8%

no • 92%

45% of students have had a tattoo on their stomach

yes • 5%

no • 95%

50% of students have had a tattoo on their legs

yes • 3%

no • 97%

55% of students have had a tattoo on their feet

yes • 1%

no • 99%

60% of students have had a tattoo on their fingers

yes • 0%

no • 100%

65% of students have had a tattoo on their toes

yes • 0%

no • 100%

70% of students have had a tattoo on their ears

yes • 0%

no • 100%

75% of students have had a tattoo on their nose

yes • 0%

no • 100%

80% of students have had a tattoo on their lips

yes • 0%

no • 100%

85% of students have had a tattoo on their eyelids

yes • 0%

no • 100%

90% of students have had a tattoo on their eyebrows

yes • 0%

no • 100%

95% of students have had a tattoo on their hair

yes • 0%

no • 100%

100% of students have had a tattoo on their skin

yes • 0%

no • 100%

By Sarah Davidson
CENTERPIECE EDITOR

ophomore Brittany Battle carries a poignant message with her every day in blue-black ink, the words "P.L.P. Grandin." Grandin, a woman with her right arm, remind Brittany of her grandmother, who died in 2000. The words are contained within and beneath a cross adorned with a red ribbon.

Brittany's mother, Cathy Battle, thought tattoos were unnecessary without a meaningful purpose behind them. "It, when she learned about Brittany's idea of a tattoo dedicated to her grandmother, she thought it was a logical reason to get one. Brittany is one of many Shaker students who struggle with the negative aspects of having a tattoo, which include the stereotype of a teenage rebel, numerous health risks and possible clashes with faith.

It started off with Popeye

The cartoon character Popeye the Sailor Man came home from overseas and embodied the trend of tattoos. Popeye was based on real-life sailors who came home from overseas tours sporting newly inked arms. According to the Popeye Website by Otis, "Popeye, with his muscles and his spinach, would become a cultural icon."

Of course, the very first tattoos were linked long before anchors appeared on the heroic cartoon sailor's powerful left arm. Tattoos were found on bodies of mummies in Egypt around 1,200 B.C., according to the site. The art of tattooing spread to Greece, Asia and New Zealand. Greeks used tattooing as a way to communicate with spies. Asian tattoos showed social status and New Zealanders' tattoos denoted tribal groups.

Tattoos didn't appear on many Americans' skin until the early 19th century. The popularity of tattoos is mainly due to Martin Hildebrand, a German immigrant, and Samuel O. Riley, an Irish immigrant. Hildebrand opened the first known tattoo parlor in 1846, inspiring underground parlors to go public. In 1891, O. Riley patented an electric tattoo machine. The machine made tattoos more widely available, less painful and less expensive.

Dark side of the Art

In the 1960s, American newspapers reported widespread blood poisoning, hepatitis and other diseases that resulted from bad tattoos, according to the site. The tattoo parlors in question were mostly in run-down areas and were poorly maintained. With these fears, the popularity of tattoos declined until tattoo artist Lyle Tuttle revived them in the end of the '60s. He began to tattoo celebrities and encouraged parlors to clean up and become safer.

Beno Michel, a dermatologist who practices in Beachwood, said the danger of tattoos lies within unsanitary practices. Dirty needles, unclean hands and improper care can transmit diseases such as hepatitis (the inflammation of the liver), allergic reactions and HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Michelle Laing, who works at Lyle Laing, Inc., of Art in Brunswick, makes sure to take care of her customers and their skin. She uses single-use needles and sterilizes them right out of the package. She does, however, ask her customers to sign a waiver before she begins. The waiver frees Lyle Laing, Inc. from any possibility if a customer is harmed. Laing makes her co-workers haven't run into any real problems with it.

Trend v. Faith

"(Most people) feel as though as they are getting older, they don't want to be decorated," said junior Tiffany Dunn. "Personally, I don't like tattoos so I wouldn't get one." For Dunn, a Mormon, tattoos, alcohol, dating before age 16 and sex before marriage is forbidden. Judaism also has rules regarding body art. "There is a strong tradition that you cannot injure your body and should respect it," said Rabbi Arturo Kalish of Fairmount Temple. In the Torah, the religious text used by the Jewish-Christian religions, there are passages detailing rules regarding body art and mutilation. Leviticus 19:28 states, "do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourself."

Kalish said that if an Orthodox Jew were to get a tattoo, he would be looked down upon in the congregation.

No regrets, just lessons learned

Brittany Battle, the sophomore who memorialized her grandmother with a tattoo, said that her friends and family like the tattoo and thought it suited her well. "I see my tattoo as a reminder of my grandmother, a remembrance."

Although sophomore Grace Levin doesn't have any body art, she thinks tattoos are a matter of personal choice. "Tattoos are OK. It is your body, so do what you want with it," Levin said.

There are now ways to remove tattoos in case you regret it. "In the past, people would remove their tattoos by dermabrasion, which is the scraping of the skin infected by the dye," said Michel, the dermatologist. Now, doctors use lasers to burn off tattooed skin.

Either way, the removal of a tattoo is a very painful experience, even with local anesthesia. The procedure can result in bloody scars and some discoloration of the skin. Tattoo removal takes a long time and requires multiple sessions. Michel said the number of sessions and the cost depends on the depth and size of the tattoo.

Though she supports others with tattoos, Levin does not plan to get a one herself. "I wouldn't want to regret it later," she said.

ALL ABOUT PIERCINGS

- The oldest mummified body, dating back thousands of years, was found to have a small earring. Nose piercings are mentioned in the Bible, tongue piercing was a large part of Aztec culture and facial piercings date back to sixteenth-century India. Reports state that ancient Romans were the first to use nipple piercings, as soldiers would attach their capes to their pierced nipples.
- A 1998 study revealed that teenage girls with body piercings were 2.5 times more likely to smoke, use alcohol, have sex, skip school and fight than their non-pierced counterparts. Likewise, pierced teenage boys were five times more likely to have done these things.
- Ohio law prohibits children under 18 to get a piercing without parental consent.
- The average piercing can cost anywhere from \$30-\$60.
- The website bodyjewelryshop.co.uk lists 17 different places for earrings, eight oral locations and 15 genital locations.
- Up to 90 percent of women have pierced ears.
- Possible risks after piercing include allergic reactions, chipped teeth (for oral piercings), bacterial infections and blood-borne diseases. To reduce the risk, wash the site with warm water and soap (mouthwash for oral piercings only) twice a day.
- Dutch eye surgeons have perfected the process of eye piercing - placing a tiny piece of jewelry in the membrane of the eye.

What is the trendiest spot for a piercing?

1% of students have had a piercing in their eyebrow

16% of students have had a piercing in their nose

13% of students have had a piercing in their tongue

48% of students have had a piercing in their belly button

Elementary School Nostalgia

By MEGHAN THOMPSON
COPY EDITOR

Remember when school was fun?

Junior Marie Hoffman does.

"I loved Fernway," she said.

In five of the most significant years of your life, you learned to read, took your first test and made your first friends.

"[Elementary school] helped me find who I was as a person," junior Emily Mizer said.

There are five K-4 elementary schools in Shaker: Boulevard, Fernway, Lomond, Mercer and Onaway.

"Beginning with full-day kindergarten, children are exposed to the joy of reading, the thrill of seeing their thoughts transformed into written stories and published books, and the hands-on application of scientific and mathematical concepts," states the district's shaker.org website.

This description of elementary curriculum makes school seem fun. It was, until we left elementary school.

"I miss being younger because there's less stress... it was more fun," said senior Danny Yoder, a Mercer alumnus.

Today's high-pressured high school world of AP courses and varsity sports is not a playground.

Sophomore Caitlin Nielsen, former Lomond student, summed it up. "I think we just need a break," she said, noting the advantages of easier classes, less stress, a longer lunch period and recess in elementary school.

Other students are content in high school.

Junior Kristen Moore, who attended Boulevard, misses elementary school, but prefers high school because it allows for more individual responsibility. "I enjoy high school more because in elementary school [teachers] catered to your needs... [in high school] you have to put one foot forward."

But the legacy of elementary school lives on. Even in high school, alumni feel a sense of loyalty and pride for their school. Rivalries among elementary schools still exist in good fun.

According to Mizer, these rivalries began with the fifth-grade transition to Woodbury. Mizer said high school students hold pride in their alma maters.

"People will be like, 'Yeah, Onaway!'" she said.

Hoffman still has her Fernway T-shirt. "I'd say everyone is jealous [of Fernway]. We did better things, like our trip to Geauga Lake."

Memories from 'back in the day'



I remember when we got to Woodbury everyone would determine how 'cool' their school was by who went to what school.

Emily Krassen
Sophomore



We were all close. We had class spirit.

Kevin Glass
Sophomore



I remember there was this really mean lunch lady [at Mercer] who used to take our sandwiches.

Esther Kim
Freshman



University School is definitely Shaker's biggest athletic rival

Yotam Guggenheim
Senior

K-4 without the red and white

By LEAH HITCHENS AND
MEGHAN THOMPSON
PULSE EDITOR AND COPY EDITOR

Looking up at the stars and blasting off into space during a field trip to the planetarium as a first grader is not an experience all high school students remember.

Some students who did not attend elementary school in Shaker feel left out.

Junior Deterich Burgess, who attended several elementary schools in Cleveland, came to Shaker in eighth grade. Burgess said the demeanor of Shaker is much "calmer" than that of his previous schools. Burgess also noted that he has felt left out, especially as a new student at Shaker.

"They know each other," he said. "[People will say things like] remember that time at

Woodbury?"

Senior Julia Panescu, who came to Shaker from Texas in ninth grade, wonders what the elementary school years at Shaker were like.

"You hear about so and so who used to be friends, [and] I wonder what it was like when everyone had their first set of friends," Panescu said.

Junior LaTashia Morrow, new to Shaker this year, agreed that the transition from another school is difficult. She said that she feels left out when

old friends "hug up on each other."

"People should learn to be nicer," Morrow said.



Multiple high schools rival in the same community

By SCOTT UNDERWOOD
STAFF REPORTER

Two high school students live in the same town. They wake up around the same time every morning. They pull on their jeans and pack their backpacks. They eat breakfast and drive their cars to school.

That's where the similarities end.

Communities with multiple high schools create an environment ripe for conflict. This is the most intense form of high school rivalry because of schools' close proximity and shared interests.

The Parma City School System has three high schools: Normandy, Parma High and Valley Forge.

According to Valley Forge Athletic Director Tom Schreiber, Normandy and Parma High exemplify high school rivalries.

David Schueffler, a Parma High assistant principal, said academic rivalries can be seen among the three Parma high schools; however, "they are most often seen when the schools compete against each other in extracurricular academic competitions such as Science Olympiad or

Academic Decathlon."

Similarly, private schools in multiple-high school towns struggle with the competition. Take for example the longstanding rivalry between Shaker Heights High School and the two nearest private schools: University School and Hathaway Brown.

Shaker senior Yotam Guggenheim said, "University School is definitely Shaker's biggest athletic rival, even moreso than Cleveland Heights." He thinks the hockey game against US is the biggest sports event of the year.

Similarly, the teams at all-girls

Hathaway Brown share an equally strong athletic rivalry with Shaker. Every year, the athletics draw the teams' biggest crowds.

Sophomore Cecilia Culp also said there is a unique rivalry between the schools beyond sports. "The rivalry is not only on the field; there is also conflict off of it," she said.

Unlike Parma's intra-district rivalry, Shaker's private school rivalry lacks the academic element. Culp said, "I really don't feel any academic competition between Shaker and University School or Hathaway Brown."

Summer birthdays not so sunny and bright

Birthdays are supposed to be fun. Your friends throw fun parties for you, your parents desperately try to spend time with you but end up just helplessly handing you presents as you walk out the door.

You eat cake and ice cream, open colorfully wrapped gifts, bring cookies to your English class and get out of all your work.



JASON PLAUTZ
CENTERPIECE EDITOR

That's not the way it happens in the summer.

Summer birthdays are about getting long-distance, belated phone calls from your friends who spend the whole time telling you about what a fabulous time they're having in Rio or France or whatever exotic locale in which they're cavorting.

Summer birthdays are about celebrating at camp or on vacation with your parents, eating store-bought cake in your hotel room after the celebratory dinner at a roadside diner.

Summer birthdays are about wishing more people would congratulate you, or at least notice your special day.

I was born on July 1, smack dab in the middle of summer. Recounting my most memorable birthday experiences could fill a Greek tragedy.

There was the time my family drove across New England while I sat curled up in the back seat with strep throat?

There was the time at camp when my birthday garnered so little attention, I just decided to ignore it altogether.

There was the time I decided to go for a bike ride (when none of my friends were home), fell off and spent the rest of the day with a giant gash on my knee.

The simple truth is, summer birthdays suck. Nobody brings us cupcakes or decorates our lockers. We miss the cutoff for qualifying for kindergarten classes and end up with an extra year of preschool.

We end up being either the youngest or the oldest people in our classes, getting our licenses well before everyone else and having to chauffeur our friends around, or getting them so late we always have to beg for rides.

Summer birthday people are an oppressed minority in our school-centered society.

In fact, we're not even a minority at all. In one of my classes, we were asked to divide into groups by birth month.

When it was observed that June, July and August had a disproportionate amount of people, my teacher shrewdly (and somewhat disturbingly) observed, "Hmmm, a lot of summer birthdays. Well, that is nine months after winter—when it's cold and people like to get closer to each other. I guess your parents must have been cuddling..."

With so many summer birthdays, you'd think we could come up with some sort of solution for our problem. And no, half-birthdays are not an acceptable option; six months after July 1 is Jan. 1—when we're once again not in school.

So look for me in your next in-school birthday celebration. I'll be the one sulking in the corner, mumbling the lyrics and grabbing cupcakes to save until July.

Meet the new assistant principals

By MIRIAM MOORE
PULSE EDITOR

What Michelle Ayers said	What we asked	What Lisa Howell said
I was born in Boston. My family came to Cleveland when I was one year old. I have lived in Warrensville Heights since I was five years old and I went to Warrensville schools K-12.	Where were you born and raised?	I grew up in Cleveland Heights and graduated from [Cleveland Heights High School] in '91.
I attended Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio for my undergraduate degree and I attended CSU for my master's.	Where did you go to college?	I went to John Carroll and went to grad school and got my master's at Ashland.
I worked at Warrensville as an AP for five years before coming to Shaker.	Where did you work before you came to Shaker?	I worked in Cleveland Municipal Schools and I worked in Euclid.
Being a neighbor, I've known the area. Shaker has always had a rich tradition and reputation in academic achievement and a good community background, so coming in as an administrator and actually seeing the staff and seeing the students, it just supported the vision that I had about Shaker as a city, that the school district is as good as the community.	What was your first impression of Shaker?	It seems very laid back, very focused.
I was told I was a very good teacher and I feel that I could reach the young people in the classroom setting. As an administrator you have to have goals and a vision. Basically, my first supervisor said, "You would make a good administrator as a role model and a resource person."	Why did you want to become an Assistant Principal?	I like playing a role in academics, discipline, community relations, and when you are an Assistant Principal you impact all of those different facets of education.
The dress code concerns me in the summer time in the warmer weather. Some of the young ladies are not dressed appropriately for school.	What changes do you think should be made at the high school?	I would say that sometimes when the weather is warm, change some of the dress and have students tone it down a little bit.
I can't say that any one person right now inspires me. I look from within now. I am at a stage in my life where I believe that faith is an action word. Any person who strives to do more, be more and help other people would be an inspiration to me.	Who are your role models/who inspires you?	Someone like Oprah is very inspirational because she is a woman and has really worked her way up. She is very positive and she concentrates on what you should do in life and she moves in the affirmative. She's always having shows with tips to better your character.
As an assistant principal we all have a unit of students that we work with as well as the guidance counselors. We take care of their attendance and any disciplinary matters, but each AP has special projects. The one special project that I have is the master schedule. The master schedule is the software system that drives the student schedule, report cards and teacher class lists.	What is your role as assistant principal?	An assistant principal has a list of various duties that could include handling things like proficiency testing or coordinating open house. We all have different duties that we are responsible for, and then definitely contributing to having a safe and productive environment.
I have a dog who I love very much, exercising, traveling and spending time with my family.	What are your interests outside of school?	Cooking, interior design and exercise. That doesn't mean I'm a health nut, it just means I like different exercise equipment. I don't get the time to exercise every day.



Steve Aviram • THE SHAKERITE



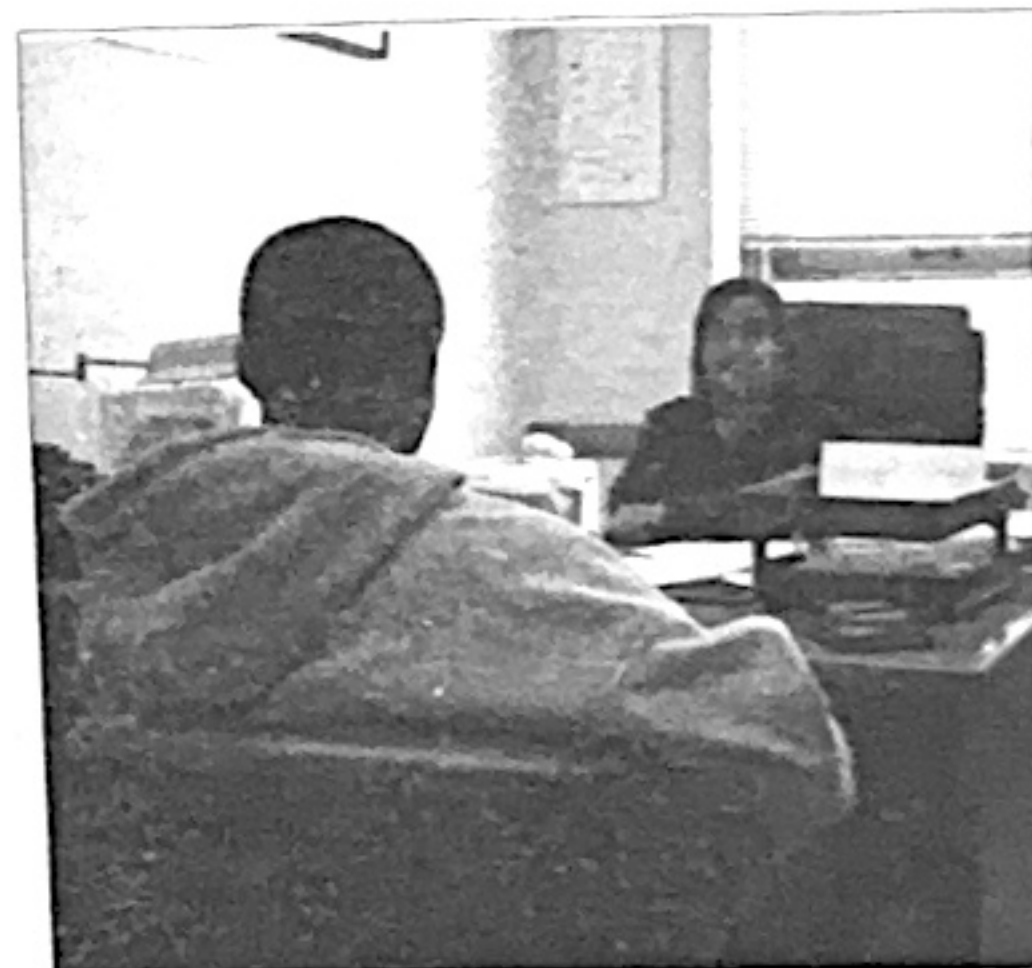
Michelle Ayers

Chipotle
sitcom
Martha Stewart
Bert
Subway
Cold Stone
coffee
Arabica



Lisa Howell

Que Tal
sitcom
Martha Stewart
Ernie
Dave's Cosmic
Subs
Ben and Jerry's
tea
Starbucks



Dan Snider • THE SHAKERITE

Hot cocoa recipes spice up cold winter weather

• Hot cocoa the lazy way

If making homemade cocoa isn't your cup of tea, then you can always spruce up your regular Swiss Miss with a peppermint stick from Trader Joe's or a pinch of cinnamon to give it a little flavor. Starbucks and rival Arabica both offer hot cocoa with the option of adding one of their syrup flavors, including raspberry, vanilla, mint, caramel and pumpkin spice.

Compiled by Miriam Moore



Old Fashioned hot chocolate

From "Southern U.S. Cuisine"
2 ounces unsweetened chocolate 1/3 cup sugar
4 cups milk 1 pinch salt
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
Place chocolate, sugar, milk and salt in a 2-quart saucepan over medium-low heat. Heat, stirring, until chocolate melts and mixture is well blended. Add vanilla, pour into cups. Serves 4.



Mexican Hot Cocoa

From "Heath"
1/2 cup water 1/3 cup sugar
1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa
1/2 to 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
3 cups 1% low-fat milk
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
Ground cinnamon (optional)
Combine first four ingredients in a saucepan, cook over medium heat two minutes, stirring constantly. Reduce heat, and simmer four minutes. Stir in milk, simmer five minutes. Stir in vanilla. Sprinkle with cinnamon. Serve immediately.

Junior Apprentices strive for a fairy tale ending

• Shaker team uses raffle to raise money and collect books for YWCA inner-city kids

FROM APPRENTICE PAGE 1

Cleveland on Nov. 30 as part of an upcoming YWCA event titled Welcome to the Boardroom: An Evening with Carolyn Kepcher. Kepcher will join the board of Women's Leadership Initiative later this year.

For the high school spin-off Junior Apprentice, students had to collect books for a YWCA reading program for inner-city children. Students faced elimination by Barbara Danforth, chairwoman of the Greater Cleveland YWCA.

The Shaker team comprised seven students currently taking economics courses with teacher Diana Jones. Jones randomly selected the students after they identified their business skills in one of four categories — leadership, marketing, salesmanship and creativity.

Jones chose seniors Cassie Gladden, Colin Murphy and Ben Sattin and juniors Susannah Blood, Val Martin, Brittany Mosely and James Spielman. The team chose Gladden as Project manager.

"I knew we'd win," Gladden said. "I was excited about Junior Apprentice and

happy it was for a good cause."

"My first thought was 'Oh my gosh, how are we actually going to get people to donate books?'" Mosely said.

The team used the slogan "Every child deserves a happy ending," which Murphy created. The team also used the logo of a treasure chest and rainbow overhead, and to go along with the storybook theme, the members dressed as characters from children's books.

Blood, excited about the task, placed wire in her hair to become Pippi Longstocking.

"I am excited that all these books can get to people who can't afford books or don't know how to read," Blood said.

The students began collecting donations during high school parent-teacher conferences Nov. 12, the day prior to the event. Blood and Mosely manned the station, collecting \$325 for the cause.

The following day, students collected money and book donations in front of Waldenbooks and B. Dalton at Parmatown Mall. The bookshops donated 20 percent of the cost of all books purchased by people who mentioned the YWCA.



SENIOR CASSIE GLADDEN (aka Tinkerbell) gives a balloon to a young girl at Parmatown Mall to raise money for the YWCA.

Students also devised their own strategies for enticing donors, including a raffle of signed sports memorabilia. Key Bank gave the team a basketball, football and baseball autographed by players from the Cleveland Cavaliers, Browns and Indians respectively. The Shaker team collected 566 books and raised more than \$800.

However, when they returned to the boardroom, the Shaker team was disappointed to find that the team representing Cuyahoga Valley Career

Center, which had worked at Southview Mall, had gathered more than 3,000 books and won the competition.

The CVCC team earned a limousine ride and an elegant dinner in downtown Cleveland. They will also be featured on the WKYC Channel 3 morning show and will meet Kepcher Nov. 30 at her welcoming banquet.

"I was disappointed because we had done a lot of work, but then again, a lot of good has come out of it," Blood said.

Profanity hits the classroom

BY LEAH HITCHENS
PULSE EDITOR

To swear or not to swear? That is the question facing some Shaker teachers.

"It's just another thing this school is inconsistent about," physics teacher William Scanlon said.

"Nobody knows the [faculty] policy for language," junior Stephen Cabrera said. "It's like the food rule. I think the teachers can pretty much make their own rules."

Science teacher Travis Cox disapproves of severe language.

"I don't like the real bad words, but sometimes it slips — like 'hell' or something," he said. "Teachers need to model what you should do at work."

Cox said some bad language is inevitable. "Kids are gonna swear. I swear myself, outside of school," he said.

Principal Michael Griffith acknowledged the fact that there is nothing written into teachers' contracts about swearing at school.

"The expectation [for teachers], though, is anything that is vulgar or viewed as inappropriate should not be used in the classroom," he said.

English teacher Yvonne Allen associates the informality in teachers' behavior with the shift in the school's role in the community.

"Schools are expected to play more of a role—maybe that affects interactions," she said, citing the fact that over the years she has become "a lot friendlier."

Junior April Griffith said she is offended that



Amy Silver • THE SHAKERITE

some of her teachers swear in class.

"I'd rather have them not cuss, but I can't do anything about it," she said.

April was visibly shocked that there are no written guidelines for teachers regarding use of profanity.

"That's so backwards," she said. "Just because they're adults doesn't mean they can do whatever they want."

William Scherer, president of the Shaker Heights Teachers Association, referred to section 3319.16 of the teachers' contract, which governs termination of teachers.

"While it is vague in some areas... it could be argued that a teacher who uses profanity in the classroom is offensive, and thus, just cause for removal," he said.

April Griffith doesn't think people should tell teachers how to teach. "But as far as language, they most definitely should have rules to follow," she said. "It's not setting a good example."

Scanlon echoed that sentiment.

"I think [swearing is] really inappropriate," Scanlon said, adding that most parents would be upset if they heard a teacher swear in their child's class.

Scherer clearly identified the responsibility of the staff at Shaker.

"Teachers should always measure the appropriateness of what is said in class with regard to the level they respect the institution they work for, the parents that entrust them with their children and the colleagues that will judge them," he said.

Griffith reiterated that no one should speak to another in a way that is inappropriate.

"Teaching is an exercise in good communication skills," Griffith said. "The issue is how do we help people communicate better?"

Mechanical babies cause disruptions

BY LEAH HITCHENS
PULSE EDITOR

Senior Anne Ouellette signed up for Child Development class because she wants to become a teacher.

However, Ouellette's AB Calculus classmates found themselves along for the ride when the computerized infant disrupted their class.

"In math class we had to take a break because everyone was asking questions about it," Ouellette said.

The babies carry a computer chip that causes crying and records data about the care provided. When a student is assigned a mechanical baby, he or she must carry it for a week.

Before the student is issued a baby, she has to get permission from her other teachers to bring the baby to class. If three or more teachers deny the request, the student only carries the baby on weekends.

Child Development teacher Kirstin Bergren said this year's class includes only females, most of whom are "naive" freshmen.

"A lot of them understand the mechanics of where babies come from but not the complications of this type of long-term commitment," she said.

Freshman Shannon Miller said



Jaclyn Inglis • THE SHAKERITE

SOPHOMORE AMANDA AUSTIN feeds a mechanical baby in child development. Students must carry the babies with them for two weeks, and a computer chip records their work as caretakers.

the baby was a disruption at school and at home.

"My mom said not to bring the baby home anymore because it would cry through the night," Miller said.

Miller, who said she wanted to have a baby after high school, said taking this class changed her mind.

"It was hard. I can't just leave the baby and go," she said.

Have you ever heard a teacher swear?

96% • Yes
4% • No

Scientific poll of 146 people with a margin of error +/- 8 percent. Shakerite staff interviewed students.

Allie Jennings • THE SHAKERITE

Heard in the Halls
Overheard and out of context

"I peed in the shower."
10-30-04

First person: "I'm a bad news, south side nigga."
Second person: "My dude, you live on Shaker Boulevard."
10-28-04

"I think I popped an ovary."
10-9-04

"Oh my God, I can't believe I almost forgot my stapler in the trash can!"
11-11-04

First person: "Deez."
Second person: "Greens."
First person: "Charlie Sheens."
Second person: "Howard Deans."
First person: "Flu vaccines."
11-1-04

First girl: "Get to the back!"
Second girl: "Uhh... yeah. You shouldn't say that to a black person."
11-8-04

<< "Romeo & Juliet"
Dec. 6-8, 2001<< "Man of La Mancha"
Dec. 5-7, 2002<< "Our Town"
Dec. 4-6, 2003

THEY'VE GOT MAGIC TO DO

'Pippin' comes to Shaker
courtesy of the theater

department
Dec. 2-4

By the
Numbers

Erik Johnson
returns to
Shaker

Graduate of Shaker's class of '98 and new teacher in the high school's theater department, Erik A. Johnson has already delved deep into his job as director of the ensemble program and is co-producing the upcoming musical "Pippin" with Christine McBurney. Johnson began to teach during his senior year at Shaker and returned to teach as a graduate student. He said that because of his gradual transition from student to teacher, he has not struggled to adjust. Johnson does not plan to implement changes in the theater department. "Wow," he said, after almost a minute of contemplating the concept. "I have some interest in collaborating with other departments," he said, but that's all. "I don't have a particular vision." He loves his job just as it is. His favorite part, he said, is "getting to work with other artists. I think that's the most valuable thing."

— Marta Lapczynski

BY LAUREN WEISS
NEWS EDITOR

Does the story of a guy who lived in the eighth century have anything to do with 21st century teenagers?

According to junior April Griffin, a chorus member in the theater department's upcoming production of "Pippin," it sure does.

"It's out there. It's raw. It's real life," she said. "It's not what you would expect from a musical — it's not so showbiz."

"Pippin," which runs from Dec. 2-4 at 8 p.m., is making its second appearance at the high school. The musical revolves around the journeys of the son of the Emperor Charlemagne and his quest to find himself. James Thornton, artistic director of the show and former theater department chairman, picked the show at the beginning of the school year.

Theater teacher Erik A. Johnson, who is co-producing the show with colleague Christine McBurney, said that Thornton continues to be an asset to the production.

"It's wonderful that Thornton is here. He can pass on some of his wisdom," Johnson said.

Auditions were held from Sept. 28 – Oct. 1. Everyone with interest attended the first day to demonstrate vocal and acting abilities. People who tried out for the principle roles had to return for the following days, as did students with special movement abilities.

"You get a rush. You don't know what they're going to ask you or what they'll have you do," Griffin said. "It's real intense."

Rehearsals began in mid-October. Chorus members, who are known as Pippin's "players" in the show, practiced every day from 3:15 to 6:15 p.m. The leads were asked to make an even greater time commitment, with rehearsals resuming after a dinner break.

Griffin said rehearsals have made it difficult to go to conferences and be as active in some of her other extra-curricular activities, but the show is a worthwhile commitment.

"It all depends on how much you want it. I can't lounge around after school, but I'm having so much fun," she said. "Everyone who's there wants to be there."

Johnson said one of the nice things about shows is the number of opportunities for students who don't wish to act.

"There are a lot of different roles, like the people who research the play for the program," he said.

Luiz Coelho, who is the head of the band department at Woodbury, is providing some of these opportunities by directing the orchestra for "Pippin."

"It's wonderful to have an orchestra," he said. "The kids are very, very talented. It's great to be able to use the resources of these students."

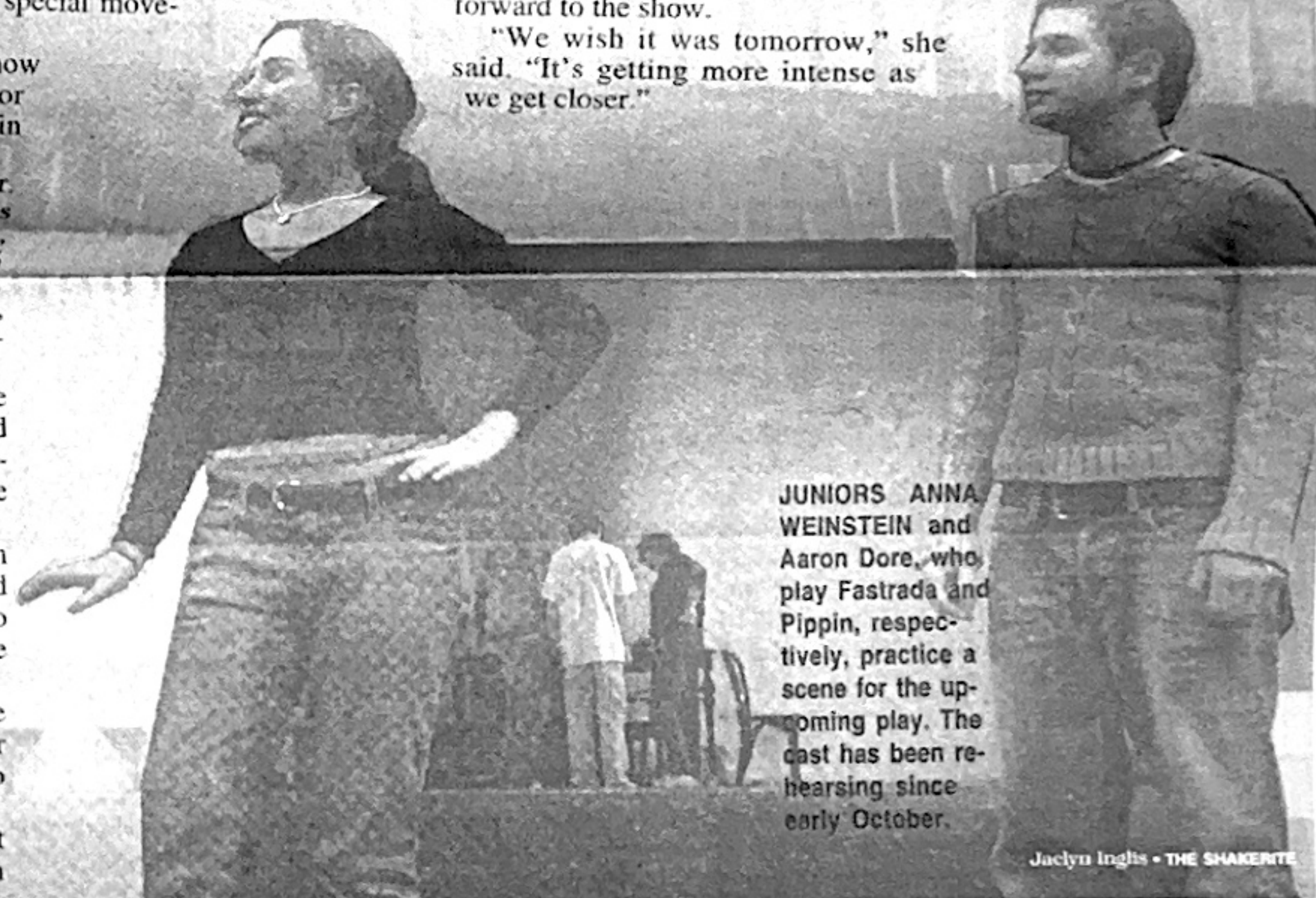
Coelho invited the entire string orchestra and selected students from the band department to audition for parts in the shows. He said they started practicing at the end of October, when he received the music, and will practice from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. on the three days prior to the show.

"It's a very difficult, complicated score because it is a compilation of two or three different versions of 'Pippin,'" he said, noting that there are 37 songs in the production.

Coelho also directed the slightly smaller orchestra that accompanied the production of "Man of La Mancha" in 2002.

Griffin said that the entire cast is looking forward to the show.

"We wish it was tomorrow," she said. "It's getting more intense as we get closer."



JUNIORS ANNA WEINSTEIN and Aaron Dore, who play Fastrada and Pippin, respectively, practice a scene for the upcoming play. The cast has been rehearsing since early October.

Jaclyn Inglis • THE SHAKERITE

Number of songs **18**

Number of students involved **93**

Number of students in cast **30**

Number of students on stage crew **7**

Number of musicians in orchestra **44**

Number of students who auditioned **77**

Number of lines **850**

Total cost **\$6,000**

Compiled by Jason Plautz

Shaker Music & Theatre Arts Departments Present



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December 2, 3, 4
Shaker Heights High School
Large Auditorium
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\$5 students and senior adults
\$10 adults

On stage and off, students work hard

BY ROBERT ABRAMS
STAFF REPORTER

We all notice the people in the limelight, but who's working that light?

The people behind the scenes work hard to create and enhance the most basic element of any performance — the environment. Imagine a musical with no lights or sets or props or microphones.

The environment is infinitely important, yet the people responsible for it often get the least recognition of anyone involved in a production, at least according to stage crew member Liza Bonthuis.

"Some of the actors are really nice, but others are totally mean to us and treat us, like, really badly," the junior said.

Chuck Tisdale has been the technical director of middle school and high school productions for eight years. His job includes heading stage

crew, an extracurricular club. Members gather on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They work on technical aspects of both high school and middle school plays and are responsible for occasional maintenance of the auditoriums, which includes repainting the stage and re-hanging the curtains.

Thus far, stage crew has ripped out four front rows in the large auditorium for the orchestra and created some platforms on the stage. "We're planning on a pretty basic set for 'Pippin,'" Tisdale said. "Something left open to the audience for interpretation." He noted that painting the stage itself is a possibility.

Looking ahead at the tasks that remain for "Pippin," Tisdale said there isn't a whole lot planned yet. He mentioned creating props such as "beds, tables, benches . . . and some flying objects." He was unable to elaborate on the flying objects.

Read the Shakerite. It's super cool!

'Gossip Girl' sparks chick lit trend

• Stories of rich and raunchy young adults catch girls' attention

By Allison Scahrestin
STAFF REPORTER

"The moment Cynthia Baltres peed all over an eight-thousand-dollar Hermes Kelly handbag was the moment that Anna Cabot Percy decided to make Cynthia her best friend."

Sound like someone you would want as your best friend?

Apparently so. The rising genre of chick literature explores the elite worlds of New York City and Hollywood. The anecdote about Cynthia appears on page one of "The A-List" by Zoey Dean.

The books are so popular that Shaker's high school library had to purchase extra copies.

Chick books, also referred to as Chick Lit, target teenage girls and women. The protagonists are usually searching for love.

The "Gossip Girl" series by Cecily Von Ziegeler represents the quintessential Chick Lit. In the United States, readers aged 14 and up have bought 6,000 copies of what "Teen People" called the teen version of "Sex in the City." The series follows a small circle of friends in New York City. The first page reads, "Welcome to New York City's Upper East Side, where my friends and I all live in huge fabulous apartments and go to exclusive single-sex private schools. We aren't always the nicest people in the world, but we sure make up for it in looks."

Sophomore Katie Mintzer loves the books. However, she doesn't consider them to be true literature.

"[They're] just a great escape from reality," she said.

Freshman Lauren Lewis also enjoys the books.

"A lot of the characters have extremely expensive clothes, homes in hotels and freedom to travel to Caribbean islands alone for spring break. Most of us wish we could have [these privileges], and I think that's what makes them so interesting," she said.




Lewis doesn't let the books influence her actions. She understands that some of the characters' decisions "could get you into a lot of trouble." Despite many references to sex, drugs and alcohol, she isn't embarrassed that her parents know she reads these books.

"My parents know what's in the books, and they don't mind because they know that I wouldn't try to do some of the things the characters do. They think some of it is pretty funny," she said.

Some people, however, believe the information is too mature for a young audience.

"There's a danger that, based on the actions of a minority of young people, [chick literature] helps create a new normality, and puts pressure on others to do the same," said Arthur Cornell, chairman of the educational charity Family and Youth Concern.

Shaker Heights High School social worker Chris Ruma-Cullen has

BOOK	What's the deal?	Our opinion
 "Gossip Girl" by Cecily von Ziegesar 208 pages \$8.99	This story follows the lives of eight high school seniors who live in Manhattan's Upper East Side. The series deals with everything from the hookups to the break-ups, from the beginning to the end of these kids' senior year. There are now six books in the series, with a seventh due out next spring.	"Laguna Beach: The Book," except it's on the East Coast. By far the best chick lit book and the one that started the trend.
 "The A-List" by Zoey Dean 228 pages \$9.99	Manhattan native, Anna, decides to leave her New York apartment, where she's living alone, to move in with her father in Hollywood. The series follows Anna's triumphs and woes with the guys and girls of Hollywood. There are three books in the series, with the fourth due out next spring.	Wannabe "Gossip Girl," but it doesn't work. If you need a "Gossip Girl" fix between the releases of books, read it. Otherwise, don't waste your time.
 "Confessions of a Shopaholic" by Sophie Kinsella 220 pages \$11.95	Rebecca Bloomwood gets a line of credit from London Bank, but in a few months, exceeds the limit of her credit due to her obsession of shopping. Although she always gets into a lot of debt, she also always finds a way out of it. There are three books in this series and she gets married in the third one. "Shopaholic Ties the Knot"	"Gossip Girl" meets "The Real World: London." The story of what will happen to the "Gossip Girls" after they leave college and live on their own. Written long before "Gossip Girl," but didn't really trigger any other books. What does that say about it?

not read this specific genre of book, but does believe that many books can help students deal with their problems. She recommends that troubled students read books.

"I try to direct them to healthy books," she said.

These "healthy" books help to show students that others suffer from the same problems/issues that they do. In many cases, the books can give students the courage to survive hard situations.

Shelia Schwartz, professor of English at Cleveland State University, reasons that the books appeal to women because they consider real issues.

"I think they appeal particularly to women because they deal with conflicts, traumas and adventures women are trained to be interested in — romance, especially, but also body image issues and family break-ups. Plenty of women are stuck in unsatisfying marriages, romances, and poverty, and these books reflect this or offer an escape, or both," she said.

Although novels are easily classified into the chick lit category, it is more difficult to determine the male equivalent. A commonly used name for this genre rhymes with chick, but the more appropriate name for this category of literature is lad lit. "Booty Nomad" by Scott Mebus is one of the few books in the genre. It follows a man in his 20s living in Manhattan as he strives to get over his ex-girlfriend and look for his new soul mate. "Love Monkey" by Kyle Smith, tells a similar story of a man in his 30s and his failed love affairs. Ben Mezrich is the author of "Bringing Down the House" a book often classified as lad lit. In the New York Times article, "What Do Men Really Want (To Read About)?" published in May 2003, Mezrich described his take on male fiction. "Men don't want to read about dating and relationships. They want to read about money, sex and people beating the system," he said.

Shaker Librarian Dawn Sullivan agrees that young men are interested in much different things than girls are. The library does carry chick books such as "Gossip Girl" and "The A-list," but not many that would qualify as lad lit.

Sullivan explained that there is romance geared toward boys, but in the form of fantasy and science fiction. She also believes that teenage boys are more interested in newspapers and sports magazines. According to Mintzer, teenage boys only want to read "action books about death and dying."

While lad lit struggles to catch on with men, Chick Lit has attracted many girls, women and teens.

Junior Alena Petrenko finds the reason hard to explain. "I just like reading these books!"

Quality shows for minorities few and far between

From the big screen to your Sony flat screen, black entertainment is making me sick to my cotton-pickin' stomach.

With movies like "White Chicks," "Big Momma's House," and "Love Don't Cost a

Thing," it seems

that success lies in

portrayals of stu-

pidity and the per-

petuation of stereo-

types. Not to men-

tion that these

movies, which have

no redeeming

value, constantly earn bad reviews

from critics. Why is the "black

movie" genre littered with cinematic

garbage?

Television is the worst culprit,

surpassing even movies. A "black

TV show" never means a quality TV

show. What happened to the days of

"The Cosby Show" and "Family

Matters?" Network television has

traded-in the upstanding black family

for "The Parkers" and "Girlfriends." I

watched "Girlfriends" the other day

and had to endure a good seven min-

utes of Toni's loudmouth mother go-

ing on about the size of her butt.

Why are these shows painting black

women to be loud, ghetto and ob-

noxious?

Even Bernie Mac's successful

show has become popular because

his character appears as ignorant as

possible. That's not entertaining.

The thing is, no one should buy into

watching shows like these or submit

to paying \$7.75 for "Soul Plane," or

even turning just one page of the

sexually explicit, non-literary Zane

books. Blacks are being short-handed

by the entertainment industry, fixing

their eyes on a much lower standard.

Come on. In the oh-so-appropriate

words of Chris Rock, "That ain't

right!"

Having an entertainment con-

science does not mean entertainment

junkies (like me) have to buy into

watching white upper-class teenage

angst all the time. I'm not going to

go out and buy the collector's edi-

tion first season of "The O.C." or

program my TiVo to record "Desper-

ate Housewives."

However, I'm not one to offer

criticism without a logical solution,

so this is what I offer to you: Break

the cycle. Don't support it.

It might take a heavy time and ef-

fort investment to find the worth-

while TV shows, but they're out

there. Try watching one of my per-

sonal favorites, "American Dreams,"

where African-American Sam, played

by Arlen Escarpeta, is the first in his

family to go to college, and his wid-

ower father, Henry, is part-owner of a

small business. Tune in to

"America's Next Top Model" and

watch Tyra Banks, who has made

something outstanding of herself

without playing into ignorant stereo-

types. Ahem... let's not pretend we

don't know how network executives

profile black females for reality

shows —Omarosa.

Lastly, don't overlook the fact

that there are some silver screen su-

perstars, including Denzel Washing-

ton and Jamie Foxx. Foxx has come a

long way to give his first Oscar-wor-

thy performance as Ray Charles.

So next time you sit in front of

your TV or stand in line at Loews,

stop and think about the choice you

are making. With a little effort, treat

yourself to quality entertainment,

and I promise, at the end of the day

you'll feel better about yourself.



LEAH HITCHENS
PULSE EDITOR

Ska music coming back to pop culture

By Josh Davidson
STAFF REPORTER

What can make a straightedge kid come home soaked in beer and reeking of cigarettes?

In a word, ska.

Ska is a music genre growing in popularity in the Cleveland area. New bands are being created and local clubs feature their performances. Prominent bands that recently played ska include No Doubt, Sublime and Reel Big Fish.

Ska originated from reggae. Ska's faster tempo and higher pitched guitars, however, departed from the slower, heavily bass-influenced reggae. Ska evolved to include a heavy dose of horns, and today ska combines a reggae feel with horns and strong punk influences.

These different types of ska fall into what are called the "three waves." Ska has its roots deep in the ground of the shantytowns in Jamaica. The genre started there in the '50s and continues to be one of the most popular forms of music on that island. In the '60s, Jamaican artists such as Desmond Dekker, Jimmy Cliff and Bob Marley all played ska.

In the '70s, ska musicians moved the form to England. This second wave became a music that fought

the rampant racism in the U.K. The combination of black and white musicians in second wave ska bands provided the reasoning for ska's major point of fashion: the checkerboard. Although few ska bands sing about fighting racism anymore, checkerboard Vans, checkerboard flags and checkerboard ties are common at ska shows.

Today's ska is part of the third wave. It includes heavy punk influences and does not employ the second wave's anti-racist lyrics. It offers more of a "have-a-good-time-and-dance" experience.

Ska hit its prime in the mid '90s. It then declined and is now on the rise again. National acts are touring in Cleveland with local bands eager to open shows.

Evidence of the rise can be found on www.ohioska.com, a website founded by Copley High School senior Taylor Kruse less than a year ago. He attends numerous ska shows around Cleveland and feels that national bands have always gotten attention in Cleveland but, "there seems to be a lot more interest in the local scene." The ska bands in

Cleveland are playing mostly third wave music. Kruse believes simplicity is the reason. "The punk/ska stuff is just easier to play, has more energy and is more familiar for most people," he said.

"I play ska because people love to dance to it and have a good time at the shows."

Max Stern
Lead guitarist, the Skataphones

"It's really a mess of all sorts of people," Stern said. "I guess I play ska because people love to dance to it and have a good time at the shows, and they don't try to kill anybody [like] at metal concerts or cry [like] at emo shows."

High school ska bands are also popping up. In Cleveland Heights, the Skataphones have played at the Rhythm Room and the Grog Shop. The Skataphones have opened for the Cleveland Heights band the Rude Staff Checkers and for national bands Suburban Legends and MU330. They play third wave ska, plus some straight reggae. Max Stern is their lead singer and guitarist. His band originally did not play ska.

"I was into punk for a really long time when I was younger, and I also loved my mom's Bob Marley CDs," he said. "The music was really happy."

Ska Puns

Local Bands

- The Imperial Skabots
- The Skataphones
- The Skanktronics
- The Ska-ker Moms

National Bands

- Ska Skank Redemption
- Fried Ska-Lamari
- Muhammad Skali
- The Skadolescents
- The Skalapenos
- The Skatalites
- The Skallet Letter
- Skazel Tov!



Doomed to athletic failure

• ESPN Magazine votes Cleveland most tortured sports city

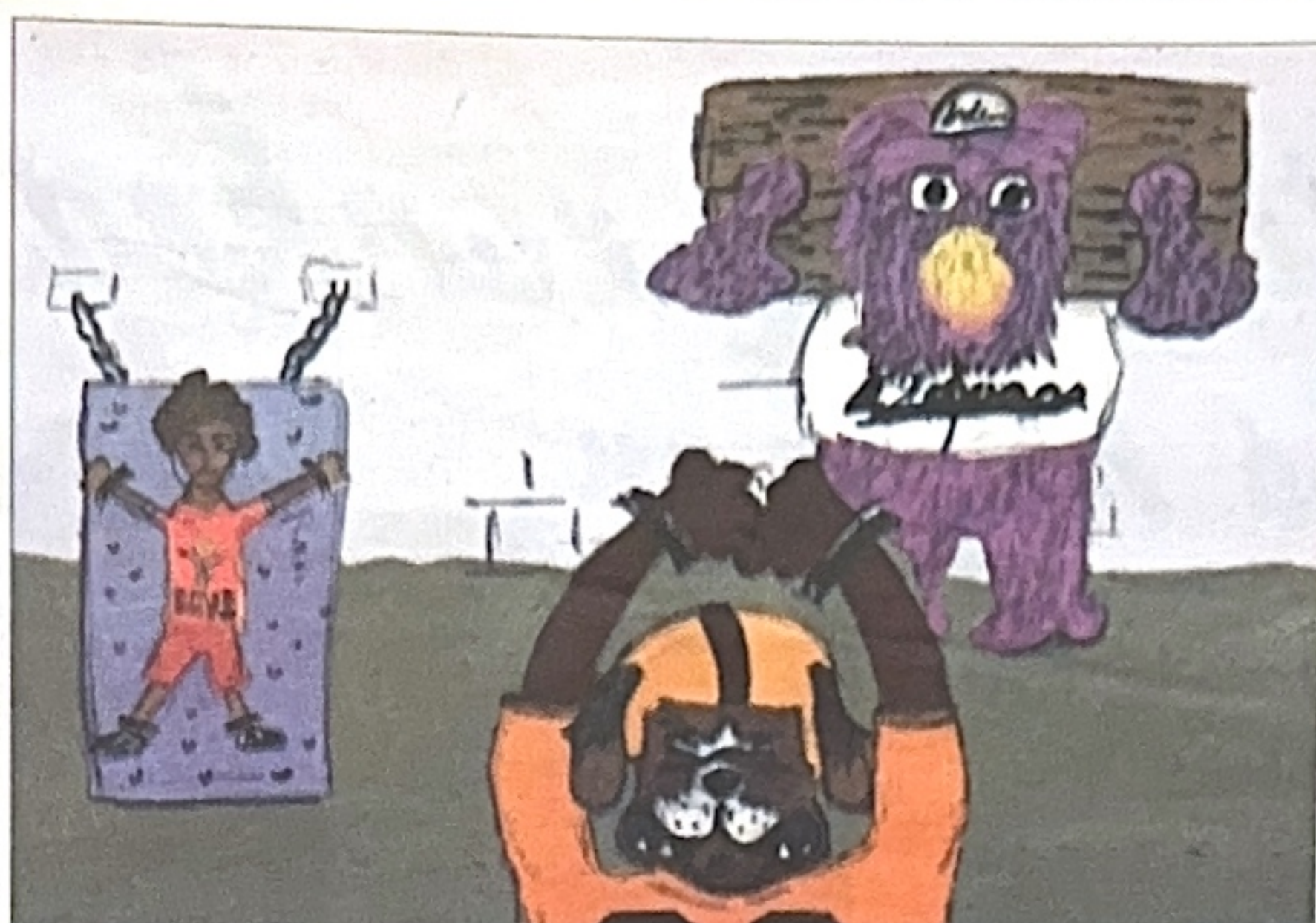
FROM CURSED PAGE 16

The Browns have had their fair share of blunders over the years and seem to be living up to their derisive nickname, the "mistake by the lake." Since 1964 the Browns have failed to even make it to a championship game. They came close a few times in the late 1960s and three more times in the 1980s, but the team always fell victim to classic sports gaffes such as "the drive" and "the fumble." Both blunders kept the Browns from Super Bowl fame in back-to-back conference championships against the Broncos.

These mistakes pall in comparison to the treachery that befell Cleveland in 1995 when former Browns owner Art Modell relocated the team to Baltimore. This move was so unpopular

“ God enjoys tormenting Ohio sports fans in general and, most notably, Cleveland fans in particular.”

Jamey Coddling
bullz-eye.com sports
message board



Jessy Walker • THE SHAKERITE

that fans filed more than 100 lawsuits, including one by the city of Cleveland. In 1999, fans felt like their prayers had been answered when the Cleveland Browns were resurrected. However, fans have gained little but disappointment from the team. The new Browns are 3-3 this year and are a combined 29-57 since their return in 1999.

The Indians also made us cry

in the '90s when they went to two World Series with their strongest team in years but still failed to win.

The so-called golden age of Cleveland baseball has ended and the Indians have won only 55 percent of their regular season games, a significant drop from their average of 62 percent from the 1994 through 1997 seasons. This drop is not surprising because the original "dream team," consisting of players such as Jim Thome and

Kenny Lofton, is now scattered across the league and its replacements are no-name rookies fresh out of Buffalo, the location of an Indians' farm team.

The Cavaliers are the only Cleveland team showing any signs of life. Prior to Cleveland's selection of LeBron James as the number one all-around pick in the 2003 draft, Cleveland had virtually fallen off the map. This so-called "player of the decade" has yet to disappoint us, seeing as the team's season win percentage has jumped 22 percent since his signing.

Junior Michael Greska feels that the signing was beneficial to the Cavs.

"Since we got LeBron, things have really started to look better for the Cavs," he said.

Oddly enough, Shaker's sports teams seem to mirror Cleveland's tradition of strong teams and no trophies, which leads one to wonder if a city's bad luck can rub off on its suburbs.

The Raider football team, for example, seems to share the Browns' bad luck. They too have not won a state championship despite several very successful seasons. Nevertheless, team member Anthony Emory said he believes Shaker's luck has changed.

"This will be the year we win it," he said.

the Sports Desk

Frisbee team goes 5-2, makes playoffs

Two years ago, the players created the Ultimate Disc Club. It comprises two, 29-player teams, both with full schedules, and both the only Shaker teams currently in the playoffs. Although usually overlooked as just a game, Ultimate Frisbee, or "Ultimate," as its connoisseurs know it, is played in 42 countries, which means it is more popular than both lacrosse and American football. There is an Ultimate team on nearly every college campus across the country. Shaker's Ultimate program was started by what team co-captain Nayyir Qutubuddin

called "just a few guys tossing on the front lawn," and has since grown to the 45-member program that it is today. Qutubuddin added that the team's goal this year is to qualify for the Ultimate Players Association Juniors Ultimate Championship in Pittsburgh. According to Qutubuddin, achieving this will take a lot of work.

"But then again, our team has a lot of potential," he added. Of Shaker's two teams, the one with the better record (5-2) will be competing in the 2004 Cleveland Disk Association Juniors Ultimate Fall league finals for the championship. Senior Liam Brett-Eiger, one of the captains of the Ultimate Frisbee Team, said the team's first trip to the playoffs was enjoyable. "We got to play against other teams. We even beat some of the other teams, which was cool," Brett-Eiger said.

-Scott Underwood

Pallotta has training wrapped up

FROM TRAINER PAGE 1

trainer than they would around a male trainer.

"Initially the athletes act differently when they see a female," Pallotta said, "but they get used to it."

She also said most players continue using the same language and gestures they would use around a male trainer.

While in high school, Pallotta played softball and helped out as a student trainer. After breaking her ankle during softball, she began devoting more time to training.

During her years at Kent State, Pallotta worked with the women's



Pallotta

soccer team, the men's basketball team, the football team and men's and women's track and field teams.

After treating injuries from a variety of sports, Pallotta said she doesn't have a favorite sport to train. She said that football is one of the more fun sports, though, because it produces a greater variety of injuries.

Head Athletic Trainer Bob Collins says that he has worked with many female trainers in his 13 years at Shaker. In fact a significant percentage of high school and college athletic trainers are female.

According to the latest poll by the National Athletic Trainers' Association, 48 percent of athletic trainers are women.

Pallotta believes this percentage will soon increase. While attending classes at Kent State, only one of her

classmates was male.

Kevan Morgan, a senior varsity football player, thinks Pallotta's recent arrival in the training room influences her performance.

"I personally prefer Trainer Bob because he has more experience," Morgan added. "When Trainer Michelle is stretching you out, it feels like she's going easy on you."

Female trainers have yet to join the ranks of professional and college sports in significant numbers. There are only three female athletic trainers in the four major men's sports leagues.

According to the NATA, there are two full-time female assistant trainers in the NBA: Michelle Leget of the Houston Rockets and Janet Panek of the Washington Wizards.

This summer, the NFL's Pittsburgh

Steelers hired Aiko Iso, the first full-time female athletic trainer in the NFL. There are no female trainers in either the NHL or MLB.

Senior Kimberly Williams doesn't think there is any difference between a male and a female trainer. Williams, who during the basketball season finds herself in the trainer's room at least twice every year, said she has no preference.

"To me it doesn't matter who it is, as long as they do a good job."

Pallotta says that the most rewarding part of the job is seeing athletes heal and play after having thought they wouldn't be able to return to competition.

Collins is pleased with Pallotta's work to date and is expecting more of the same. "So far she is doing a wonderful job," he said.

Sport	Record	Season in summary	In their own words
Women's Tennis	15-5 overall record	The Raider squad finished first in the LEL with two victories over Mentor, 3-2 and 5-0.	"We had a very productive season with a good positive attitude that helped us win," junior Jessica Schiller said.
Men's Golf	16-2, 8-2 in LEL	The team's only two losses came from Mentor.	"The team was good this year only losing to Mentor twice," head coach Bob Wonson said.
Women's Field Hockey	7-7 overall record	The Raider field hockey team defeated Hawken in the first round of the state qualifying games but lost to HB.	"We played well but just not as good as we should have," senior Becca Heidi said.
Men's X-Country	Fourth place in LEL	Sophomore John Gregg was the only runner to qualify for the playoffs. Roderick Macelod coached for the ill Charles Richard.	"Although we've had a young team, they are coming along," head coach Roderick Macleod said.
Women's X-Country	Third place in LEL	Led by senior captain Emma Witte, the team's best over all times came during the at the Gilmour invitational.	"It was a productive season, we all realized our personal strengths and weaknesses," junior Makeda Farley said.
Football	8-3, 5-0 in the LEL	LEL Champions; Senior Nick Simon set a record for most tackles in a single game with 27 against Mentor.	"A great positive season—it's too bad it ended the way it did," senior Winston Carter-Hawkins said.
Men's Soccer	8-12 overall record	Shaker's first playoff game came in a 1-0 overtime victory over Cleveland Heights but an overtime loss to Chardon spoiled their run.	"We were playing well as a team toward the end of the season," junior Anson Hall said.
Women's Soccer	8-7, 5-1 LEL	The team made it to playoffs 2nd round of sectionals but lost to Lake Catholic.	"The Season was a lot of fun. It was a real nice team this year," said senior Sarah Bell.
Women's Golf	7-8 overall record	At the Padua Invitational, senior Frederique Bruell placed first out of 105 golfers.	"I thought it was a pretty successful season," head coach Charles Weed said.
Volleyball	6-4 in LEL Post season: 1-1	Placed third in the LEL after going 5-15 during the 2003 season.	"This year was a huge improvement over last year," junior Kate O'Gorman said.
Crew	Bronze at Head of the Cuyahoga	At the Speakmon Regatta, the open weight four placed fifth and the varsity eight tenth out of 27.	"It was a really good season and it was a really good way to go out for the season for all the seniors," senior captain Katie McGill said.

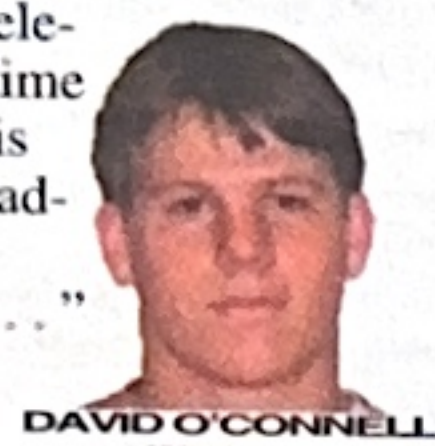


The 86-year-old **Curse of the Bambino** ended when the **Boston Red Sox** swept the 2004 World Series, beating the St. Louis Cardinals 3-0 in game four Oct. 27. Since the then-five-time series champions traded Babe Ruth to the Yankees in 1918, the Red Sox have **lost two 3-0 World Series leads** and didn't win it all again until this year. They are the first team to **overcome a 3-0 deficit** in a league championship series.

-boston.redsox.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/bos/history/index.jsp

We're student athletes, not professionals

Can you imagine going to a Shaker football game on a Saturday afternoon and hear P.A. announcer Bob Wonson say, "Welcome to Key Bank Field, home of the Shaker Heights Raiders, televised for the first time ever on ESPN. This portion of our broadcast is brought to you by Gatorade..."



Although that scenario seems unlikely, there's no denying that high school teams and athletes are attracting more and more attention from national audiences, adding fuel to athletes' fiery, overly confident dreams of the professional lifestyle.

Three high schools in Texas have earned more than \$1 million each by selling naming rights to their football stadiums. Sponsors included a bank, a health care provider and a communications company. It's not unusual to spy advertisements on high school tickets, scoreboards and buses, as well as in school hallways, cafeterias and end zones.

Schools need money to support extracurricular activities, but what are schools doing by turning their schools into billboards? We aren't professional players. We don't receive contracts for promoting big name companies. By endorsing companies, schools are also endorsing the unrealistic dream of going pro.

Apparently, high school is set to replace college as the site of national sports hype. High school sports exposure has grown by leaps and bounds. Games are now nationally televised. Teams and players are nationally ranked.

It's no wonder that a player such as Maurice Clarett succumbs to temptations that may ultimately ruin his career after just one semester as a running back at Ohio State.

Craving the standard of living enjoyed by the best professional athletes, Clarett violated 14 NCAA rules covering athlete eligibility. He accepted money and cars. He left school after just one year, only to find himself ineligible to play in the NFL because he was too young. Introducing corporate money and sponsorship to high school sports can only create more athletes like Clarett, whose impatience for the big payday was so great by the time he graduated from high school that he flushed his college and (maybe) pro career down the drain.

Sponsors can bring much-needed money to a school, especially if a team is triumphant year after year. The pressure to attract and maintain that extra cash, though, can only present high school coaches and athletes with the same temptations that regularly undermine the reputations of college programs.

Want to snag a corporate sponsor? Recruit some players and lighten their academic responsibilities. To think high-profile high school programs won't fall into this trap is naive.

High schools shouldn't impose the standards of professional athletes on us. We shouldn't stoop to their level.

Nationally ranked jumper aims higher

• Rosenblatt eager to learn, has Olympic dreams

FROM ROSENBLATT PAGE 1

In order to qualify for year-end finals in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Rosenblatt competes 10 to 20 times a year on courses with about eight three-foot jumps each. She typically competes against 40 to 50 riders in her division, though at finals there are up to 200.

Riders are judged on traits such as poise, leg strength, consistency and how far the horse jumps. Points are also awarded for using subtle physical commands to control the horse and for keeping the horse on the bit — with its neck curled and forehead perpendicular to the ground.

Rosenblatt qualified for the finals for the first time this October but did not place in the top 12 to receive a ribbon because her horse's hoof hit a jump. Bass, who has trained Rosenblatt for four years, said the

Just the facts

- Rosenblatt competes in the **Children's Hunters Division** for riders ages 12 to 17
- Ranked **fourteenth nationally** in this division
- **Division champion** at Kentucky Spring National Horse Show this past summer
- Ranked **fifth** in 2003 and **third** in 2002 by Ohio Professional Horseman's Association
- Qualified for Children's Hunters Division **year-end finals** this October



Courtesy of Hannah Rosenblatt

FRESHMAN HANNAH ROSENBLATT kisses Baisi, her Selle Francais horse, at Maypine Farms in Willoughby. With Baisi, Rosenblatt gained the rank of fourteenth in the nation in the Children's Hunters Division.

judges deducted more points for that error than she expected.

In addition to the half-hour car ride to the barn, Rosenblatt spends two to three hours there four to six days a week. She rides for 60 to 90 minutes, grooms and feeds Baisi, and cleans his stall and equipment.

"You have to be really dedicated and be ready to get up at five in the morning and go out when it's snowing to take care of the horse," she said.

Rosenblatt owns Baisi, a Selle Francais, whose show name is Crowd Pleaser. Selle Francais horses resemble thoroughbreds, which are mainly used for jumping.

"She started with a really young horse, so she's been able to not just educate herself but educate her horse," Bass said. "She loves her horses and she really appreciates how much her horses work for her."

Rosenblatt said, "I think Baisi and I really

get along because I'm always there and he knows his name. I talk to him. I know that sounds kind of weird, but when you're with him so long..."

Andrea Stuber, another trainer who works with Rosenblatt, said her willingness to understand her horse is a strength.

Bass also described Rosenblatt as competitive but a good sport.

Fellow Maypine Farms rider freshman Marlee Warman said, "If she doesn't do really well in horse shows, she's still really glad she competed."

Rosenblatt met her best friend, Hathaway Brown freshman Candace Lubar, through riding three years ago.

"We've had to deal with things where one person will do better and you'll get jealous but you'll overcome it," Rosenblatt said.

Bass said Rosenblatt has put in significant extra time and effort to catch up to her more experienced competitors, who started showing as early as age six.

Stuber agreed that Rosenblatt's greatest weakness is her lack of experience, but she has seen great improvement over four years.

"She has seen what the national riders are doing out there and she duplicates those skills," Stuber said. "Her confidence level as an overall person has grown as well."

Rosenblatt admitted that she tends to be nervous at shows, especially in the company of Olympic riders, though Bass gives her a pep talk and advice from a sports psychologist before competing.

Rosenblatt hopes to place first in her division nationwide at the year-end finals. She ultimately aims to turn pro at age 18 and compete in the Olympics.

Look for her in 2012.

COMING CLOSE



Brian Gamm • THE SHAKERITE

HITTING THE HOLE, junior tailback Craig Johnson attempts to find running room in the varsity football game against Solon Nov. 6. The Raiders fell short to the Comets 17-14 in their first playoff game since 2000.

Cleveland ranked most tortured sports city

• A 40-year losing streak takes its toll

BY SCOTT UNDERWOOD
STAFF REPORTER

The 1997 and 1995 World Series. The 1987 AFC championship game. Mention either of these to a Cleveland sports fan and you're likely to be rewarded with a grimace as he or she remembers three of the numerous disappointments that have befallen Cleveland sports over the years.

So just how bad are Cleveland sports? ESPN ranked Cleveland number one on its list of the 15 Most Tortured Sports Cities, followed by Philadelphia and Buffalo.

"I remember back when we were good in, like, the mid-1990s but now it's just embarrassing," freshman Cullen Clair said.

This July, "Cold Pizza," ESPN's morning show, awarded Cleveland top honors as the most tortured sports city in the country. On the

show, the producer added that since the Browns won the NFC championship game in 1964, "not only has Cleveland not won a sports championship in 40 years, but it has a knack for actually giving away championships."

This is all too true for longtime fans who can remember back to the Browns' back-to-back losses to Denver in the 1980s or Jose Mesa's uncanny ability to lose the big games. Some fans desperate for an explanation of the drought blame divine intervention.

"In my 25 years on

His planet, though, living life as a loyal Clevelander, I've realized that God enjoys tormenting Ohio sports fans in general and, most notably, Cleveland fans in particular," said Jamey Coddling of bullz-eye.com, a sports message board.

SEE CLEVELAND PAGE 15

